

Hafa Adai!

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Dakota Villazon is 2018 New Year baby

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first baby born in the

CNMI this 2018 is baby boy Dakota Villazon. Born to Chamorro/Carolinian parents Jesse and Alicia Villazon,

Dakota is their second child, delivered at 4:49am on Jan. 1, weighing 5 lbs at 36 weeks.

The New Year babies in

2017 and 2016 were of Bangladeshi and Filipino descent.

Commonwealth Health Center labor and delivery nurse

Shirly Ann Weilbacher said that waiting for the first baby to be born in 2018 was exciting.

"It was exciting this new

year because in previous years, we had Bangladeshi, and Filipino New Year ba-

See **DAKOTA** on **Page 4**



BEA CABRERA
Jesse and Alicia Villazon's youngest son Dakota is the New Year baby of the CNMI in 2018. Also in photo is the Villazons' eldest son Dylan.

Bill to shorten workweek filed

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Senate measure to shorten the governmental workweek has been filed during the last Senate session in mid-December 2017.

Sen. Sixto Igisomar's (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-85 seeks to establish a 30-hour workweek for non-essential government employees. Specifically, a non-essential government employee would be expected to work from 9am to 3pm from Monday to Friday, if the measure gets enacted.



families for employees to care for their children from 7am to 9am and from 3pm to 5pm. The bill states that the intention of a shorter workweek is also to allow for an allowance for government employees to take care of personal tasks or errands in the daytime as well as encourage employees to enjoy fishing and farming during the weekdays.

See **BILL** on **Page 4**



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Bishop Ryan Jimenez holds up the five-year pastoral plan that was launched on Dec. 28, 2017 at the Joeten Dai-Dai Social Hall.

Bishop Jimenez launches 3rd diocesan pastoral plan

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Roman Catholic Diocese

of Chalan Kanoa officially unveiled its five-year pastoral plan last Thursday.

Leaders of the various par-

ishes on the island and other parish representatives gathered at the Joeten Dai-Dai Social Hall to join Diocese of

Chalan Kanoa Bishop Ryan Jimenez for the launching of the five-year pastoral plan.

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

It was a strong year for the stock market, but 2017 was a great year if you made airplanes (think Boeing), were an online juggernaut (Amazon) or built homes (KB Homes).

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ASIA

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said Monday that the United States should be aware that his country's nuclear forces are now a reality, not a threat.

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LIFE & STYLE

On the last day of the calendar year, "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" has surpassed "Beauty and the Beast" as the top grossing film in North America in 2017.

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Saipan Vegas, the best Gaming Club in Saipan is proud to announce due to popular demand a New Year Mystery Wallet Draw!

Local

Chinese worker advocate group reaches out to IPI

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Chinese worker advocate group based in New York has reached out to Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC over the holidays, urging the company to pay the workers what they are "legally owed."

According to a letter from Li Qiang, founder and executive director of China Labor Watch, the Chinese worker advocacy group based in New York is urging IPI to stop "picking on these workers by cutting off their food, water, and housing" and instead pay them what she believes is legally owed to them.

China Labor Watch, or CLW, is a non-profit organization that advocates for better conditions for Chinese workers globally.

Her letter was sent after Hong Kong newspaper outlets published stories of the illegal Chinese workers who were denied pay after being illegally recruited to construct the Imperial Pacific Resort under IPI's former main contractor, MCC International.

Li's letter, which was ad-

dressed to Carman Chow of IPI, cited the Fair Labor Standards Act, or FLSA, that suggests employees who receive compensation late are entitled to receive legal compensation and liquidated damages of an equal amount.

"The other people who worked for MCC or Gold Mantis, who were part of earlier settlements, also had their recruitment fees repaid by those companies. Why shouldn't these workers?" asked Li in her letter.

Over 100 employees under MCC and Suzhou Gold Mantis Construction Decoration in mid-2017 paid a number of their employees amounts owed to them based on the recommendations of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Li added that under the joint employment provision of the FLSA, both direct employers as well as the company that contracted with them are responsible for the employee's wages.

"...Both [companies] are responsible for paying these amounts, and the companies can then fight among themselves over who ultimately bears the costs," she said, adding that regardless of who

shoulders the amount, the workers should be paid.

"...Imperial Pacific should pay these workers the full amount they are owed, and then it can seek to recover this money from the contractors that it hired. This is the fair and just thing to do. Do not ask the workers to chase after MCC; they have already tried," she said.

Last Nov. 20, 2017, IPI's legal representative Sean Frink informed the remaining workers that IPI would be ceasing humanitarian support. The communication added that if the workers did not receive the monetary offers made to them, IPI would be forever withdrawing the offer. Offers made to the workers included retroactive compensatory payments in addition to shouldering their repatriation to China.

IPI has been providing humanitarian support to the workers while claiming that they were not obligated to.

According to the workers, the offers IPI made to them was not enough to shoulder recruitment fees, even despite the fact that IPI is following the recommendations made by the CNMI Department of Labor.



MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation staff and management, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all who have contributed in one way or another to make our 1st Annual CHCC Health & Wellness Fair a tremendous success! We could not have done it without you.

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CUC to send 4 linemen, 1 admin staff to Puerto Rico

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is set to send five employees composed of four linemen and one administrative staff to Puerto Rico to help with the island's restoration efforts after being hit by Hurricane Maria in September of last year.

Speaking in front of the board yesterday, CUC executive director Gary Camacho said that CUC was asked by the American Public Power Association to join other public power utilities in this endeavor.

"APPA requested assistance for post Hurricane Maria restoration efforts in Puerto Rico. The assistance is an international effort of all the 2,200 member utilities where CUC has been a member for the last 20 years," he said.

"CUC will employ four linemen and one administrative staff which is the average support provided by most APPA utility members. This crew will be departing for Puerto Rico in the next two weeks. Even with the involvement of this crew over there, CUC will be able to function properly to provide continued service to our consumers," he added.

According to Camacho, the duration requested for the assistance is 60 days minimum and the restoration area that CUC will be involved in is Carolina, Puerto Rico.

"The memorandum of understanding was signed between the CUC and Puerto Rico Electrical Authority...

CUC will provide upfront funding of \$511,000 and this amount is reimbursable. Our invoices will be submitted to the PREPA and they will submit these invoices to Federal Emergency Management Agency for reimbursement," he said.

"As for equipment, we currently have a 60-foot bucket truck and a 4x4 pick up truck that are waiting in Chaeleston, Louisiana to be shipped out with other equipment to Puerto Rico," he added.

In a teleconference, Sam Rosenburg, APPA Engineering Services Security manager from Washington, D.C., said they are tremendously impressed that CUC has line workers willing to travel so far to support their brethren in Puerto Rico.

"I think it's important to recognize that CUC will stand right there with PREPA and other utilities in supporting the people of Puerto Rico and have the power restored... a lot of credit goes to Gary and his team as there were a lot of scrambling with logistics over the past weeks and for CUC to go so far to help the people of Puerto Rico should be recognized," he said.

"After all line workers are on island (Puerto Rico) there will be roughly a total of 5,000 between contractors working for the Corps of Engineers and all the line workers from public power investor and investor utilities supporting the PREPA," he added.

Rosenburg said that the number of manpower going to Puerto Rico will be of great help especially in locations

where power is badly needed.

"Currently, 55 percent of power has been restored and we still have 45 percent to go. We will do a lot of distribution work on the ground and making that final connection to the consumer," he said.

"A lot of the 55 percent is industrial and the 45 percent

will be a lot of the residential customers and rural areas outside of San Juan. San Juan, being a big city has had a lot of the focus and resources put into it, while a lot of the outlining areas such as the Carolina region which CUC will be supporting still have some ways to

go," he added.

Camacho said that CUC is honored to be able to assist anybody in need as CNMI has received the same assistance and help after Typhoon Soudelor.

"There was an open request of 50,000 power poles across the board from all utilities

and that will give the public an idea of the extent of work that's required in Puerto Rico and CUC is very much involved in this," he said.

"This is one of CUC's efforts in expanding and assisting internationally. We are proud members of APPA and we intend to maintain and grow our relationship with them," he added.



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Smoke testing of sanitary sewer system in San Jose

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a smoke-test on the Sanitary Sewer Collection System (SSCS) in the San Jose area beginning Friday, Jan. 5, 2018 through Monday, Jan. 8, 2018. This smoke-testing is part of CUC's continuing effort to provide a safe, economical, efficient and environmentally sound SSCS.

The purpose of the smoke-testing procedures is to locate leaks, breaks, illegal connec-

tions, and other defects in CUC's SSCS. The process involves blowing a non-toxic smoke into the manholes of the SSCS. If there are any defects in the area, the non-toxic smoke will be emitted through the defect and documented by our SSCS team.

Smoke-testing procedures have been recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an effective means of identifying problem areas in the SSCS. Eliminating system defects and ille-

gal connections will help our community remain in compliance with the federal legislation regarding system maintenance and preventing sanitary sewer overflow.

The smoke is odorless, creates no fire hazard and will not enter your home or business unless you have defective plumbing or dried-up sink traps, or floor drains. The smoke-testing should only affect your property for approximately 15 minutes. Again, the smoke used for this test is

manufactured strictly for this purpose, leaves no residuals or stains and has no lasting effects on property, humans, animals or plants. Direct inhalation of the smoke may cause temporary minor respiratory irritation in some people who suffer from respiratory issues.

Prior to our smoke-testing, please pour two gallons of water in any seldom-used sinks and floor drains to prevent sewer gases, smoke, and odors from entering the

premises. If smoke does enter your home during testing, immediately remove yourself from the building, notify the CUC Team that are conducting the test or call CUC's Wastewater Operations Division at (670) 322-5033.

If people in your building suffer from a heart condition, asthma, emphysema, or some other respiratory condition and are planning to stay in the building during testing, or if a person is bedridden, has a chronic illness, or has diffi-

culty understanding any part of this public notice, please notify CUC Wastewater Operations at (670) 322-5032/3 to discuss your specific case.

CUC apologizes for any inconvenience resulting from this smoke testing project. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Mr. & Mrs. Green Meadow School 2018

The presentation of the candidates for the Mr. & Mrs. Green Meadow School added glamour in the Christmas Party of the GMS family last Dec. 23, 2017 at the Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Mr. & Mrs. GMS 2018 is a PTSA project and the very first of its kind in the school. The activity's main goal is to help raise funds for the paving of the driveway in the school.

To qualify as a candidate, he or she must be a parent, relative, or guardian of a student at GMS. There are five pairs of candidates.

The candidates are as follows:

■ Mr. Kennet Bernardo & Ms. Rachel Masga- 1st Grade (Chalan Kiya)

■ Mr. Darwin Barbo & Mrs. Shiela Barbo- 1st Grade (Gualo Rai)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The candidates for the Mr. & Mrs. Green Meadow School pose for a group photo during the school's Christmas party last Dec. 23 at the Saipan World Resort.

■ Mr. Orlando Santos & Ms. Verna Alfeche- 3rd Grade

■ Mr. Jason Aia & Ms. Desiree Guerzon- 4th & 2nd Grade

■ Mr. Sabino Cabrera &

Mrs. Norlyn Cabrera- 5th Grade

If you wish to support any of the candidates, tickets are sold for \$ 1 each which is

equivalent to 1 vote.

Although half of the candidates' score depend on their votes, the other half will be based on the pageant night.

The judges will be looking for the best in talent, best in formal attire, and best in island wear. The candidate with the highest total score including the votes will be proclaimed the 1st Mr. and Mrs. Green Meadow School 2018.

Ernie Molina, event organizer of pageants in the

CNMI, is the coordinator and choreographer of the event. He expressed excitement in working with the very cooperative parents of GMS.

The coronation night will take place on Feb. 18, 2018 from 6pm to 10pm at the Taga Hall of World Resort. For tickets, call 235-2185. (PR)

DAKOTA

From Page 1

bies. This year, the boy is from Chamorro/Carolinian parents. You could say they're native as this is their island and I am glad for them," she said.

"Every time there is a baby, everyone is excited as a baby is a symbol of new life and new beginnings. We welcome each and every baby born in

this world. Babies are precious," she added.

Alicia Villazon, Dakota's mother, came in the hospital at 3:30am and gave birth a little over an hour later.

"I didn't expect that I will be the first one to give birth in 2018. I am happy that Dakota and I are doing well. I hope that he grows up to be a good child, finish school, and earn a master's degree," she said.

Jesse Villazon, Dakota's

father, was hoping for a baby girl since their first born, Dylan, is a boy.

"I was hoping for a baby girl but I am definitely happy with any gender. The important thing is that Dakota is healthy. I hope he grows up to become a judge. That is my hope for him," he said.

"Having Dakota in our lives is really special and having him as the first baby born in 2018 is indeed extra special

for us. I feel proud to be Dakota's father," he said.

Dakota Villazon was delivered by Dr. Samuel Gordon with the assistance of CHC's Labor and Delivery unit composed of Daisy Olanda, Shirley Ann Weilbacher, Maridion Binay-An, and Jeviifer Demapan and the OB Unit composed of Lovely Lopez, Belen Tolentino, Monique Aguilera, Edna Abantao, and Jackyleen Kaye Benetra.

we want it to be very realistic and start small growing bigger so we can achieve many of the important things for the diocese," she said.

Sablan said the work of the pastoral plan committee consisted of assessment, design, and building. The next step is implementation.

Jimenez is urging church members to get a copy of the pastoral plan and share it with their family members, friends, and co-workers.

A digital copy of the plan is available at <https://rcdck.org/2017/12/diocesan-pastoral-plan>.

tions to comply with a 30-hour workweek and shall take effect in the next fiscal year after the enactment of the bill. Regarding overtime, the special rate of 1.5 percent additional pay would be implemented for hours worked beyond 40 hours per week.

Included in S.B. 20-85 are provisions that mandate the Department of Finance to establish online systems for the filing of businesses and licensing documents as well as making payments of government taxes and fees.

The provision was inserted since a 30-hour workweek is for sure to affect the services such as business licensing and tax and fee payments. According to S.B. 20-85, the projected savings from the lower work hours could be used to establish online systems to promote convenient and efficient online filing of documents payments.

BISHOP

From Page 1

The booklet will serve as a guideline for the direction Jimenez hopes to take the diocese in the next five years. This is the third pastoral plan that has been made since the diocese of Chalan Kanoa was established on Saipan.

The establishment of the plan was a collaborative effort made by the leaders of the various parishes around Saipan.

"We're a team and we collaborate with everyone and

it was really a yearlong process," said Jimenez.

Jimenez said the easier part of the pastoral plan was the drafting and launching of the plan, the harder part is the actual implementation of the plan. "This is the direction of our diocese in the next five years," he said.

Jimenez said the pastoral plan was made achievable so that it doesn't just look good on print but it would also represent the church as a whole.

The priorities that were considered in the establishment of the plan were evangelization

and faith formation, vocation, marriage and family, liturgy, social justice and outreach, and the youth.

Jimenez said under his leadership, with the support of the members of the church, he will certainly take a stand and express their opinions on certain issues that would directly impact the church.

According to diocesan pastoral planning committee chair Rita Sablan, the committee ensured that the pastoral plan was doable and manageable.

"Although we want to dream big, what would we look like five years from now,

CUC accused of discrimination in workforce

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Summons for a jury trial have been issued to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on the grounds of discrimination against one of its former prominent officials.

Current CUC executive director Gary Camacho terminated CUC's former chief financial officer Matthew Yaquinto in May 25, 2016 allegedly without cause and without the authority to do so.

Yaquinto, through Attorney David Banes, has demanded for a jury trial in the NMI District Court. The NMI District Court issued summons on Dec. 29, 2017.

According to Yaquinto's official complaint, he was allegedly terminated without review or explanation because he is Caucasian and not of NMI descent, and was replaced by an NMD without the required qualifications to fill his position.

In addition to a breach in contract and discrimination, CUC allegedly practiced unlawful employment, and violated Yaquinto's civil rights.

Yaquinto claims that Camacho did not have the appropriate authority to terminate his contract because Camacho was allegedly hired and retained illegally because he did not meet the requirements in order to be CUC's executive director, and Yaquinto's contract stated that he is to report directly to the CUC board of directors.

During his employment, Yaquinto was allegedly pressured by members of the board to only hire persons of NMI descent; was accused by the board of directors of discrimination against NMDs when he would hire staff based on merits and not race; was accused of various lies; and was constantly harassed, chastised, and yelled at making it difficult for him to work at CUC.

Yaquinto claims that the actions made by the board of directors and Camacho were motivated by a bias because NMDs who work at CUC were not treated the same way.

Immediately after being fired, Yaquinto attempted to file for grievance and was refused by the board of directors.

Yaquinto prays that the court grants an order for back pay, equitable relief as the court deems appropriate, and compensation for wages lost, loss of reputation, emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience, mental anguish, interest, and for costs of experts and attorney fees.

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Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit their resume no later than Tuesday, January 8, 2018.

Resumes may be submitted to the attention of IP&E Human Resources Department.

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Email : HumanResourceTeam@ipehq.com
Mail to: PMB 1009 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950



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KSPN names Walker as news director

KSPN2 News announced last Monday that former anchor Lannie Walker will become its news director effective January 2018. Walker first came to Saipan in 2007 as an anchor and reporter at KSPN2. She has a degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota and previously reported for KUAM in Guam.

"I am excited at the chance to bring broadcast journalism here to new places. We want to try different things and see how we can best deliver the news to our viewers," said Walker.

Walker assumes the news director reins from Bob Coldeen who has served

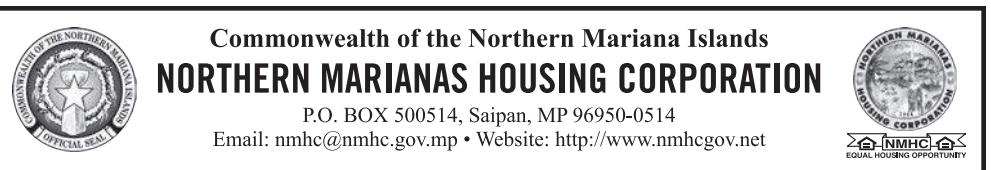
jointly as news director and sports director since 2008. Coldeen will remain sports director and will continue to assist with production and special projects.

Coldeen who has been with the local news since 1991 said "For the last 10 years I have been privileged to serve as news director for our community. I look forward to reporting local sports with a flair, and hopefully a little more time with my grandkids."

President and managing partner of Flame Tree TV Chris Nelson said, "We are really excited to have Lannie back with us, she's not just a great storyteller, she knows

the territory and knows the community. Our viewers can expect the same dedication to local news that we have always along with some fresh ideas. We also want to emphasize that Coldeen is not retiring, he's going to focus on local sports, and there's nobody like him that can bring it to life like he can. Our viewers can continue to ask "Did you get that Bob?"

Flame Tree TV produces the KSPN2 Local News, along with Visitor Channels in Japanese, Korean, and Chinese. The company also produces TV Commercials, Documentaries, Digital Signage, and the Saipan Guide Map. It can be seen on Channel 2, Channel 3, Channel 42, and at saipantv.com. (PR)



NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2018

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,264,412.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$902,206.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$293,829.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$68,377.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2018.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning January 03, 2018.

You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhgov.net in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by April 06, 2018, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after April 06, 2018, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

*February 07, 2018, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
 February 08, 2018, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian
 February 09, 2018, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota*

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/
 Jesse S. Palacios
 Corporate Director

Kilili lauds BOH for raising minimum wage

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) praised the Bank of Hawai'i for its decision to raise its minimum wage to \$15 per hour beginning on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. The bank said the money it saved from the new federal tax law allows the increase. The \$15 per hour amount is considered to be a "living wage" in Hawai'i and will be paid to employees in the Northern Marianas and other locations where the bank has branches.

"Bank of Hawai'i is showing the way for all the other corporations and businesses in the Marianas that are benefiting from the new tax," Sablan said. "The bank deserves congratulations for its leadership."

"President Trump promised that businesses would 'shower' money on employees as a result of the new tax law reducing the rate on corporations from 35 percent to 21 percent. In the case of Bank of Hawai'i that does seem to be happening."

The bank also announced a \$1,000 cash bonus for 2,074 of its employees, 95 percent of the bank's total workforce.

"I am not a big fan of the tax law," Sablan admitted. "It will reduce federal revenues, and that will force Congress to cut federal grant programs. And because the Commonwealth tax code mirrors the federal code, Commonwealth rev-

enues will also go down.

"That is a problem the Marianas Legislature will have to figure out either by raising taxes or cutting services."

Raising the wage is good policy

Sablan said he does think it is good policy to put more money into the pockets of working people, whose spending drives the economy. And he is working on that goal in Congress.

"I am an original cosponsor of the Raise the Wage Act that would raise the national minimum wage to \$15 per hour over a seven-year period,"

the congressman explained. "Although the bill is not going anywhere in this Republican Congress, if Democrats are successful at retaking the House in the next Congress, then a minimum wage increase will be a priority."

As a senior member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, Sablan said he would be in a position to make any special adjustments, stretching out the timing for the \$15 increase in the Marianas, if that would be more suited to the scale of local businesses.

Sablan said the Marianas Legislature should also look

at raising the minimum wage.

"I know that Bank of Hawai'i cannot be compared to a small local business," the Congressman said. "But, at least, getting all of the larger businesses in the Marianas to start raising wages to the living wage level could be good policy."

"In fact, Governor Torres testified at the hearing on my CW bill, H.R. 339, this year that the Legislature was going to increase the CNMI minimum wage. The governor said that a higher wage would bring more local residents into the workforce and help reduce the need for foreign workers."

"And the GAO report on minimum wage and labor needs in the Marianas that I commissioned along with Senators Lisa Murkowski and Maria Cantwell showed that as the minimum wage has gone up more local, U.S. workers have entered the labor force," added Sablan.

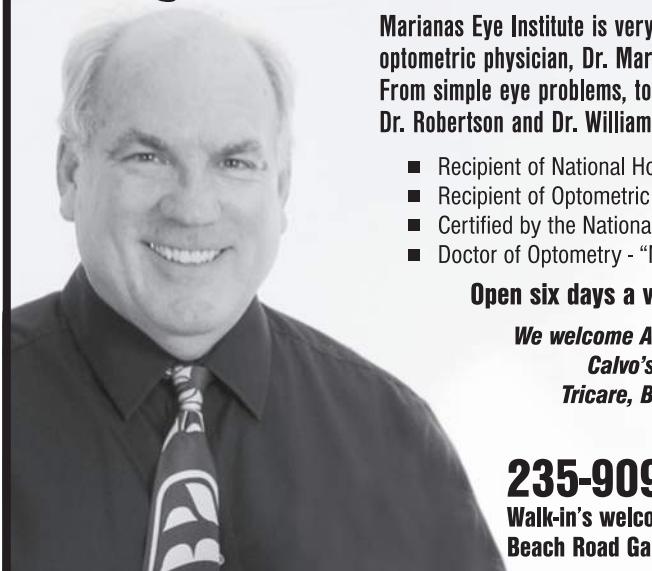
"So, I would agree with the

governor that having the Legislature raise the CNMI minimum wage is part of the long-term solution to the Marianas' labor problem.

"And I would hope that he—and the Legislature—follow through on his promise."

"Bank of Hawai'i is certainly showing that it is possible to start paying workers more." (PR)

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-17-038, Rev. 1

Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project (Revised December 27, 2017)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to perform mitigation of the CUC power distribution system through the replacement of 374 wood poles to concrete poles in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project entails the replacement of 103 units of 35-foot and 271 units of 40-foot wood poles to concrete poles and the assembly of electrical hardware. The work site is to take place across CUC's power grid.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the CUC and FEMA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **171 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-17-038, Rev. 1, Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 26, 2018** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 10, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Jr. Electrical Engineer - via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant- via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN, JR.
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-18-004

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS (Revised December 13, 2017)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups."

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-18-004, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI**" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 26, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.*

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7).

Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders shall comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 10, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org; Joseph Crisostimo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostimo@cucgov.org; and Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division, Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN
Purchasing Officer

Atkins Kroll now BMW distributor

TAMUNING, Guam—Des Graham, president of Atkins Kroll Inc., announced last week that the automotive retailer has been appointed the BMW distributor for Guam and Micronesia effective Jan. 1, 2018.

"We are pleased that BMW chose Atkins Kroll to represent its brand of premium automobiles in the Guam and Micronesia market," said Graham.

Atkins Kroll has over 100 years of experience in meeting the customers' needs and BMW recognized the AK team's excellent automotive skill sets in leading the market in sales and service on Guam and Saipan.

"It is our people at AK that will make the difference in making BMW succeed and we look forward to offering this prestigious brand with the same dedication and commitment to customer service

as our current brands," added Graham.

BMW is a Germany-based company that produces automobiles and motorcycles. The company was founded in 1916 and has its headquarters in Munich, Bavaria.

Today, the BMW Group, with its 31 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries as well as a global sales network, is the world's leading manufacturer of premium automobiles and motorcycles.

Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, is the leading distributor of vehicles in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and Micronesia enabling it to provide a full range of products and services in the region. Atkins Kroll is Guam's oldest corporation established in 1914 and represents Toyota, Lexus, Chevrolet, Toyota Rent A Car, ACE Rent a Car, and AC Delco brands.

"We are negotiating with the current importer for their inventory of new vehicles and parts. We intend to open temporary facilities for our sales showroom, customer service, maintenance, repair and parts shop for BMW vehicles while we plan a permanent home

for the premium brand," said Graham. "We appreciate the understanding of current BMW owners as we undergo a transitional phase to the Atkins Kroll premises and operations," said Graham. "More information regarding maintenance, warranty service, and repair will be forthcoming as we proceed further in the transition."

Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, is the leading distributor of vehicles in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and Micronesia enabling it to provide a full range of products and services in the region. Atkins Kroll is Guam's oldest corporation established in 1914 and represents Toyota, Lexus, Chevrolet, Toyota Rent A Car, ACE Rent a Car, and AC Delco brands.

For more information, please contact Ernie Galito at ernie.galito@AKguam.com. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Distribution of 2017 W2-CM and Annual Reconciliation forms

This is to advise all employers that the Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance began distributing the 2017 W2-CM and Annual Reconciliation forms and instructions last Dec. 22.

Businesses, employers, and all payroll service providers are encouraged to reserve forms needed by calling the Administration Office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1000, 664-1098 or via fax at 664-1015.

Forms will be available for pick-up from the Compliance Branch or main office located

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ELIZABETH TORRES)	FCD-DI-CIVIL
SANTOS)	ACTION
Petitioner,)	NO. 17-0400
)
vs.)	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
JEFF P. SANTOS))
Respondent,))

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 506557 CK Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 12th day of December, 2017.

/s/ Clerk of Court

JKPL offers ukulele classes

Registration for Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Beginner and Advance Ukulele Class is now open. The minimum age requirement is ages 8 years or older and adults. The total cost for eight class sessions is \$50.

Ukulele classes are held at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in partnership with ukulele instructor Larry Lee and son, Kui Lee. The deadline to register is Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018.

The JKPL ukulele class is based on "First come; first paid." Students must provide their own ukuleles and a folder to hold music sheets (plastic sheet protectors and a three-ring binder are recommended). Parents/guardians must sign a liability waiver form on behalf of their participating children and must adhere to public library policies and procedures.

For questions regarding beginner and advanced ukulele class, call Celina Foreman or Victoria Cabrera at 235-7315 /7322 during regular library hours. (PR)

CNMI Homeless Coalition meeting set

The CNMI Homeless Coalition will be having its general membership meeting on Jan. 4, 2018, 10am at the Division of Youth Services conference room in Chalan Piao (adjacent to Bank of Guam). The coalition would like to invite partners, organizations, agencies and individuals providing direct or indirect services to individuals and/or families who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. If you may have any questions or concerns, contact Jacob Muna at 234-7689, 483-9447, or email jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated birthday greetings go out to Sabitri Itani who celebrated her birthday last Dec. 31 in China Town, USA. Greetings from Brothers family.

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Opinion

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

Death, taxes and the junk in your basement

This is a time to relax with family and friends, catch up on sleep and "Stranger Things" and, we suggest, contemplate your death.

Not in a macabre way, of course.

We're hoping that Americans warm to the idea of importing a Swedish tradition known as "dostadning" — or "death cleaning." Which means that before you die, you toss your junk, declutter the house, and leave pristine surfaces and only the most prized possessions for your heirs. As death and taxes are inevitable, so is the imperative for someone to deal with whatever you leave behind.

Margareta Magnusson, the Swedish author of a new book, "The Gentle Art of Death Cleaning," is blunt: If you can't pawn off your stuff on family members when you're alive, why would they want it when you're dead?

We love the idea of "death cleaning" — and so, eventually, will your kids. The author tells The New York Times that 65 is a good time to start the process, but hey, feel free to start anytime the urge strikes. Because, well, you never know.

Our first — and only — rule of "death cleaning": Be ruthless.

Instead of pack-ratting stuff in the basement, crawl space, attic and every available corner of every available room, steel yourself and toss. And toss and toss and toss. Give to charity. Donate to friends. Put it on the curb and wave goodbye and pray that someone takes it before you change your mind.

If you can't bear to dump something, ask yourself: Have I used this in the past 10 to 20 years? Did I even recall it was in the storage room, the closet? If the answer to either of these questions is no, then chuck it. You can live without it. No one else wants it. Repeat that mantra.

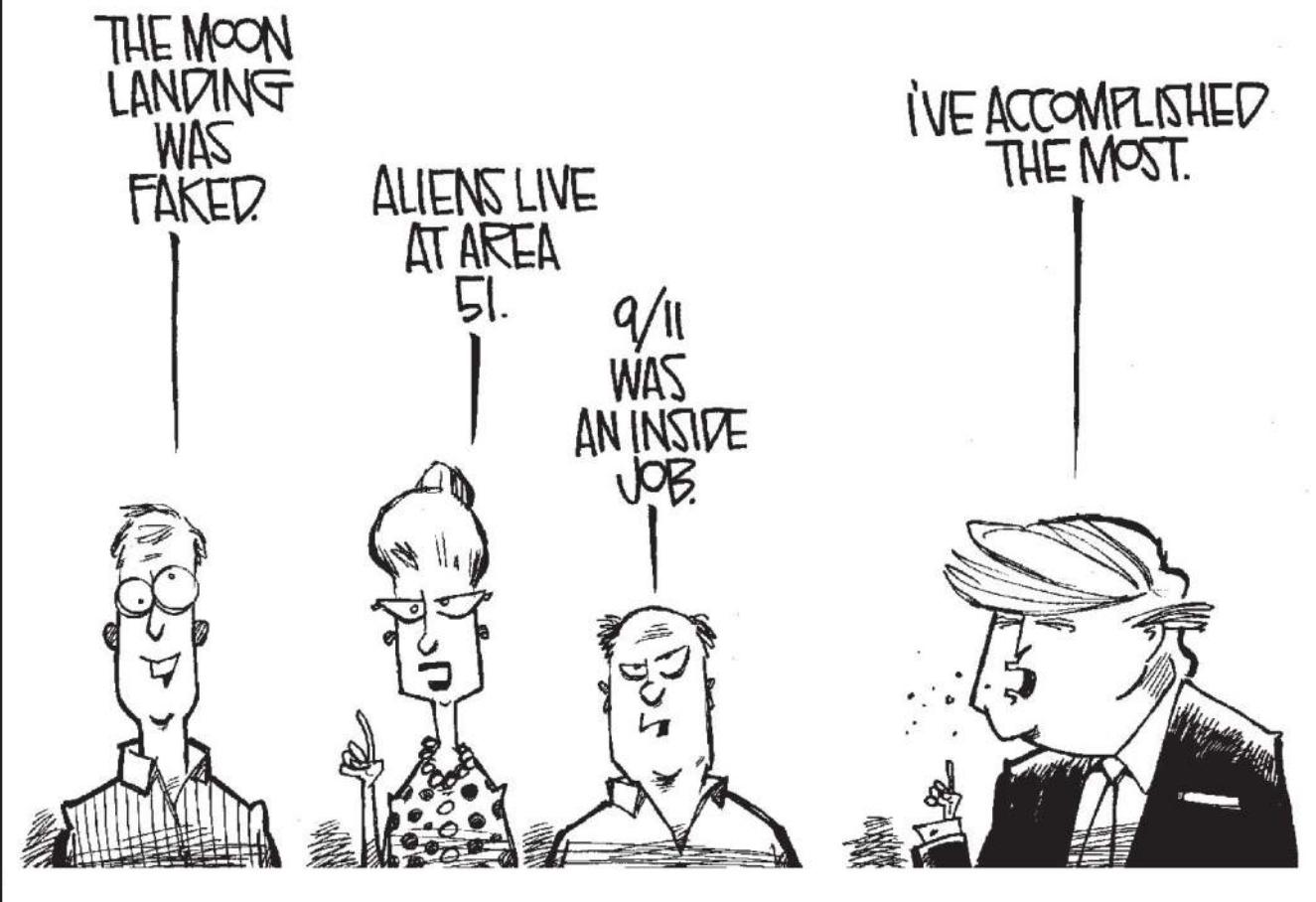
We know there are sentimental types who think that every letter, every birthday card, every note, everything that they touched in their lives is somehow to be stored and treasured. Magnusson's solution: Create a box or two of stuff that means something only to you — old love letters, birthday cards, etc. Label it: "To Be Discarded On My Death."

Death cleaning needn't be morbid or disturbing. Culling through your old photos, high school yearbooks and letters from friends can be delightful. Enjoy it but don't get bogged down. Then be merciless about what is essential. If your must-keep pile requires renting a separate storage locker, you're keeping too much.

Yes, Americans are addicted to their possessions. Hoarding is an addiction. That's why there are videos, books and gurus waiting to advise on what author Marie Kondo's book calls "the life-changing magic of

See DEATH on Next Page

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MIKE SMITH
LASVEGASSUN

What I got wrong in 2017

A year ago, as the Trump Era was dawning in Washington, I peered into the future and tried to predict what we should expect from our strange new president.

"We should give Trump a chance," I wrote before his inauguration, a chance to keep his promises to "grow jobs, improve healthcare, drain the swamp and be a president for all Americans."

"I'm going to keep an open mind," I promised, "look for signs of wisdom and virtue in his new administration, and give him credit if I find it."

I'm still looking.

At the end of the year, pundits owe their readers an accounting of what they got wrong over the last 12 months — and what, if anything, they got right. Here's what I got wrong about President Trump during 2017:

After covering his campaign, I expected Trump to govern with the quirky combination of conservatism and working-class populism that helped him win. I figured he would focus relentlessly on blue-collar jobs, which would mean infrastructure spending and trade reform as well as tax cuts.

Instead, in office, Trump has governed like a plutocrat.

His economic program has consisted of little more than tax cuts for business owners, plus deregulation. (Yes, the tax bill included middle-class tax cuts, too, but they evaporate at the end of 2025.) His promise to spend billions on infrastructure has been sidelined. And he hasn't done much to stop American jobs from moving overseas. His trade policy has been mostly threats, with little action.

When it comes to economics, our purportedly populist president has been captured by the Republican business establishment.

I fully expected Trump to continue his attacks on the norms of American democracy: the rule of law, civil discourse, freedom of the press and racial tolerance. But I didn't think he'd escalate those attacks.

When demonstrations in Charlottesville, Va., turned violent, Trump resisted blaming the white supremacists who started the melee. He waded needlessly into the controversy over Confederate statues — a local issue, not a federal question. He attacked African American NFL players for kneeling during the national anthem, and African American basketball players for being insufficiently grateful when he arranged their release from jail in China.

Almost alone among major American politicians, he can't bring himself to condemn racism clearly — a cynical political strategy to keep the culture war white-hot.

I also underestimated Trump's determination to deport immigrants who entered the country illegally, including many who have established families and integrated into communities. "His

By DOYLE McMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com



bark may prove worse than his bite," I suggested.

Wrong again. In the first nine months of his presidency, detentions and removals soared — including a 250 percent increase in arrests of immigrants with no criminal record.

But Trump has been less disruptive than I feared in one area: foreign policy.

Defense Secretary James N. Mattis, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and national security advisor H.R. McMaster appear to have tempered the president's incendiary instincts — so far, at least.

Trump threatened to unleash "fire and fury" against North Korea but has allowed Tillerson to continue trying diplomacy instead. He threatened to scrap the international agreement blocking Iran from nuclear weapons but settled for demanding new sanctions. He threatened to walk away from U.S. military obligations to NATO but accepted an increase in European defense spending.

He's still eroding the alliances the United States built after World War II and reducing American influence around the world. But he hasn't started a war. (I promised to give credit where credit was due, remember?)

I did manage to get a few things right over the course of the year.

I suggested that the economy would continue growing, especially with promises of tax cuts in the air. "Although Republicans hated the idea of stimulus when it bore President Obama's name, watch them hail Trump's as an act of genius," I wrote.

I forecast that Obamacare would survive GOP attempts at repeal — and that "more voters may demand a single-payer plan" once they considered the alternatives.

And I suggested that one of the big challenges for journalists — and citizens, too — would be distinguishing between important problems and trivial ones in a chaotic, noisy presidency.

"We should try to stop chasing shiny objects and focus on the most important issues," I counseled.

And, I argued, we should aim to "normalize" Trump — not in

See 2017 on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The

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Asuntun Sakan 2018

Siempre i tanu' u buruka na sakan gigon madandan kampanan politika gi señgsoñg siha, punta pot punta. Kase sige pa'gu i ga'ga' politika ma-ina haf chansan niha gi hilu' maisa na premium seru para adelantun familia siha.

Hatsadan 80 pot sientu numa'e kada unu gi membron lehislatura \$31,600 na kopble para i betsan niha. Taigue i publiku guine na kuentas.

Mientras tantus, debi ta usune maseha makat obligasion familia. Na ti mantautau i in' represesenta gi kuetpun lehislatura? Manu na katsada 'nai mama' hugete i publiku?

Siempre u kahulu' apas kandet na sakan kontodu apas hospital. Siha mauleg sa' ha katsu siha 80 pot sientu na subida mientras i publiku masotta na u fan mañogñug gi sisonyan miserapble na kondision.

Gi mismu tiempu kulan mampos i tautau mansilensi guine gi pa'gu humahanau na tiempun Noche Buena. Esta namaman sa' gigon oran 'la sais mahuchum todou pettan yan binantan niha. Kau pinadese umafuetsas este na fina'pus ha'anen gupot siha?

I pinadese pot dañikulu na chinatsagan fuetsan monedan familia debi in' eppi na biahe. Sumen magofyu' umekuñgog haf na esplikasion para in' dagau gi tautau. Debi tali'e haf na eskusu sineda' miyu na biahe. Ti hoñgiyun i in' hasñgun umupus i didog na pinadesen familia gi enteru petlas guine.

CW Issue: Mounting national agenda to fix loose immigration policy looks to abolishing the H2, H4 and anything that allows outside technical experts to move to the US mainland for employment purposes. It's the ongoing war between Silicon Valley hiring from India. Not sure how our issue on this score would fare amidst highly publicized murder of citizens by foreign felons. Bad timing and may require an appeal to Trump.

While we mull the issue, nearby Japan also has problems meeting labor needs and looks forward to hiring more foreigners to cushion such need. Robots isn't going to do the job in such

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tip of the spear? What spear? Who owns this spear?

Us Pacific Islanders, especially us Chamorros from Guam have grown up with all kinds of phrases produced by the military and Pacific Islanders alike or maybe just by the military. Who really knows.

Our *umko* as we all know, had various phrases which ranged from "marine scout" to "tan marian combat boot," all cherished phrases that have been produced from our entire Pacific Islander civilization experiencing the horrors of war firsthand without the war being the making of their own actions.

One phrase that I've heard all my life which still doesn't make sense is this idea that our Pacific Island home is the Pentagon's "tip of the spear."

For starters, it is insulting for any organization, especially large bureaucratic ones, to objectify our Pacific Islander civilization by suggesting that Guam is someone else's spear. As far as I am concerned, the Pentagon has been engaging in unjust and unilateral policies on our island that have not been blessed by our people, formally and informally, past and present.

But on a different level, the phrase still doesn't make much sense to me for a variety of reasons. First, the military has a global defense posture and is stretched far and wide throughout the Pacific Ocean and Asia and beyond. Second, the military doesn't have spears let alone one spear. Third, Guam has been speared by the unjust practices, policies and actions sponsored by the Navy for the past 118 years, so the last thing Pacific Islanders really need is to now have the word "spear" define our Pacific Island home moving forward.

work area as taking care of seniors who no longer could help themselves. Its aging and declining population only exacerbates labor shortage. ***

Economics: Half-cocked politicos would once more make more promises atop failed promises. Why have they turned "failure" into a thematic term? Are they allergic to being informed given the magnitude of their fiduciary duty? Or is it what's known as political wildebeest, you know, follow the crowd even to collective destruction?

To gauge and secure an understanding of how they've missed issues on a grand scale, let's take their 80 percent salary increase that instantly trashes the livelihood of hardworking folks all over. David Howell, a conservative politician, journalist and economic consultant said it succinctly:

"The real determinants of economic progress which lie at its very foundations — in the home, the household, the human impulses to share and cooperate, in the whole world of social relations and sense of fairness, in the surrounding environment and in the routine, but essential, dealings and requirements of daily life, on which everything else depends. Most of these activities in a society may be unpaid, but neither man nor woman — rational or otherwise — gets through the day without them.

"These are precisely the "core" qualities that determine a country's strength, or weakness. They decide whether an economy pulls together or slows down to torpor and stagnation levels and falls apart."

If there's economic progress did it trickle down to homes and households? If not, why the heartless padding of your own pockets first before helping the multitude many of whom are still earning and struggling with poverty income level and below salaries? Is this inadequacy an issue you could soundly articulate and defend publicly? I definitely look forward to your answers!

■■■
I'd do a straightforward review of bio-data and render views

Guam is a part of the Pacific-wide network that is multi-dimensional, multi-faceted, and controlled by the federal regime and the Pentagon. In effect, this so called spear is code for control and power and Guam represents one of several access points established by the military throughout the region.

The significance of this is that terms such as "spear" are historically bound to World War II when the United States beat Japan, which by all accounts was a horrific experience for not only the warring parties, but for Pacific Islanders, most especially, the Chamorro people of Guam, and the Chamorros in Saipan, despite loyalties to differing powers at the time.

If and when the Pentagon decides to come up with yet another label for our island, it may be that using the phrase "access point" or "logistical hub" is good enough because our island, based on available landmass, existing resources, location and political power, is in fact a priceless prized Pacific Island colony exploited at many levels, and damaged at many levels, by the Pentagon for its wider use in distributed, networked, multi-lateral operations supporting military centric theater cooperation efforts.

In short Guam is a Pentagon and intelligence wonderland located in the Western Pacific and that won't change even if Guam or the NMI turned a page in its political status with the United States.

If we had to take the term "tip of the spear" I would put that label on South Korea which has been tremendously affected by the much larger military presence of military and intelligence resources located south of Seoul and everything these days is pointed to North Korea or beyond.

Or I would apply "tip of the spear" to Okinawa which is much closer to the Asian mainland and acts as another key access point for the Pentagon to project military power on a limited basis.

One day, and it may be after I'm long gone, the Pentagon will refer to our Pacific Island paradise of Guam as the "forefront of practiced democracy" not just a point of someone else's spear.

Rick Perez

Via email

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

of pertinence and qualifications. It should help voters see the quality or lack thereof behind candidates they'd face at the polls. Can't continue incompetency like it's another day at the park.

■■■

Mission: It is said that success in politics is about issues, ideas, vision and commitment to improve the quality of life of people you represent. You wonder about issues where politicos are obviously lost. Ideas? Vision? Da Boysis still think vision is about watching programs in outmoded black and white television sets. Now you can understand why the disorientation and loss.

■■■

Corruption: The term comes in two different forms: measured reports and experience among average folks. The former pertains to news reports of corruption but aren't necessarily fully covered. Thus, the written material is measured reporting that lacks investigative work. It's opportunity lost to tell the truth.

Meanwhile, many of us feel the existence of corruption wary that something's amiss somewhere. Note how the elected elite and rich business friends keep salaries stagnant to ensure we submit as modern day slaves to their whimsical dictates. It doesn't change the accumulation of wealth that is shared among friends. Am I making sense?

It seems a signature feature in policymaking. I will eventually show who else takes an active role in policymaking. Strange fingerprints!

Trump: Liberal progressives and their pliant lame stream media have gone all out against President Trump. They even say Trump doesn't know government.

Said Wesley Pruden, editor in chief emeritus of the Washington Times, "The tax-cut legislation, which the president signed Friday, was pushed through Congress in fits and starts but with persistent White House muscle, the president prodding the House and Senate leadership with remarkable skill for a president who "doesn't understand government" and oblivious of "how Washington works."

2017

From Page 10

the sense of pretending what he does is normal, but in the sense of holding him to high standards.

We should "demand that Trump normalize himself, because he's the only one who can," I wrote. "We should ask him to be normal. We should demand that he do what he said he would do on election night: try to unite the country."

Twelve months later, that's still a pretty good description of the task we face as we head into 2018, this time with a congressional election ahead.

DEATH

From Page 10

tidying up." Her pitch: If a thing doesn't "spark joy," trash it.

That's excellent advice. We speak from experience. When the dumpsters fill, you'll be surprised how much lighter you feel. When surfaces clear, serenity settles in. Nothing to interrupt the eye or weigh down future generations. And you don't have to be dead to enjoy it.

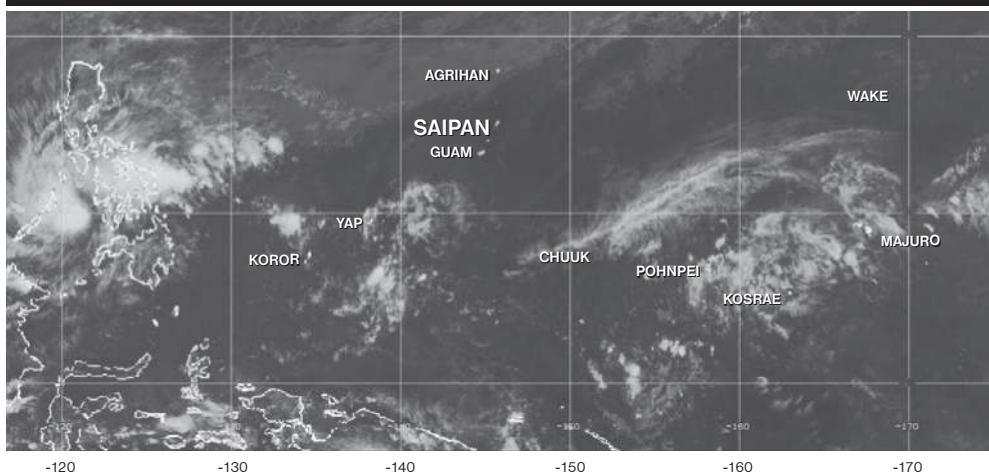
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.			

▲ 87°	▼ 78°	▲ 87°	▼ 78°	▲ 87°	▼ 77°	▲ 87°	▼ 77°
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YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:35 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A few small changes made to the forecast. Did update winds with new model data. Deep-layer moisture will be lacking through at least mid-week and only isolated showers are expected at best. Models continue to show a shear line just near Saipan Wednesday night. GFS shows it eventually pushing south of Guam by Friday. The shear line will bring mostly cloudy skies Wednesday night through Sunday. Uncertainty of the occurrence of scattered showers still persist as deep-layer moisture will only increase slightly, but it may not be enough for scattered showers. Model sounding data hints that if scattered showers did occur it would be more likely late Thursday night and part of Friday. The earlier forecast had scattered showers Thursday through Friday but trimmed them to reflect this latest model sounding data. Winds will increase the second half of the week from the 10 to 15 mph now over the area to 10 to 20 mph with 20 to 25 mph possible during the day Friday through Sunday. Another area of high pressure passing to the north will re-enforce the winds, keeping them elevated during the first half of next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86°	/	78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	82°	/	77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84°	/	78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85°	/	77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85°	/	77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83°	/	79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75°	/	63°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	39°	/	21°
Hong Kong	Sunny	73°	/	59°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81°	/	70°
London	Rain	45°	/	41°
Los Angeles	Sunny	79°	/	52°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86°	/	73°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	72°	/	55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	80°	/	64°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	26°	/	20°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	52°	/	39°
Paris	Rain	46°	/	45°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	54°	/	37°
Rome	Sunny	52°	/	37°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	48°	/	33°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59°	/	45°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	41°	/	28°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	50°	/	36°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	37°	/	26°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
2:21 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.80
9:22 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.12
2:52 PM	LOW TIDE	1.15
7:45 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.12

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:43 AM	5:58 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	5:59 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday	6:44 AM	6:00 PM
Sunday	6:44 AM	6:01 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:29 am	7:17 pm
Thursday	-	8:28 am	8:21 pm
Friday	-	9:23 am	9:21 pm
Saturday	-	10:12 am	10:19 pm
Sunday	-	10:58 am	11:13 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297 4:20pm 7:15pm Daily				DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:00am 6:05am Daily				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
0Z626 2:10am 6:00am 1				0Z625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from the Office of Youth Affairs

Before this year comes to a close we would like to wish you all a very festive season and a special...



Thank you
to all our supporters of this past Octobers

Youth Empowerment Awareness Month

Join us as we welcome the new year 2018 with live music, entertainment, and food at the New Years Youth Bash

Rota

**Thursday Jan. 4th, 2018 11:30am—3:30pm
at Sinapalo Childrens Park**

Tinian

**Friday Jan. 5th, 2018 11:30am—3:30pm
at Kammer Beach**

Saipan

**Saturday Jan. 6th, 2018 4:00pm—9:00pm
at Capital hill Baseball Field**

FOR MORE INFORMATION Visit Facebook.com/CNMlyouthAffairs for other upcoming events or call your nearest youth center at Chalan Kanoa (234.8139) Gualo Rai (235.1299) San Antonio (234.0543) Kobler (288.0023)

Saipan-da outwails snowstorm to greet Christmas visitors

Just like Santa, Saipan-da and his helpers were busy bringing holiday cheer to children on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day this year.

As part of its annual Happy Children in Paradise campaign and promotions for the holiday season, the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) gave away Saipan-da backpacks to visiting children arriving at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan

International Airport.

Passengers arriving on 15 flights on Dec. 24 and 25, 2017, were greeted by Saipan-da, Chamorritas in island attire, and MVA staff. Over 900 children ages 12 and younger received backpacks of the character, over 100 more than last Christmas.

"Saipan-da and his helpers had to work extra hard this Christmas Eve, as flights were

delayed from Korea due to a snowstorm. But it was nice to see so many visiting children smile when they received their Christmas gifts," said MVA marketing specialist Brenda Repeki, who has helped organized the give-away for nearly 10 years.

MVA produced 16,000 backpacks for the summer phase of Happy Children in Paradise from July through

September 2017. Saipan-da is a well-known, panda-like character well-received by children from all the NMI's source markets and designed to keep the destination name in front of potential visitors from Asian countries.

After nearly two decades of service with the MVA, Saipan-da has announced his plans to retire at the end of 2018. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan-da and his Christmas helpers give Saipan-da backpacks to arriving children at Saipan International Airport on Dec. 24, 2017. With the help of the Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan-da distributed over 900 backpacks on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

2 groups to honor Annie Hopkins on Jan. 20

VOICES of the CNMI Tinian Chapter and TEAM KOKA, both not-for-profit and self-advocacy and awareness for individuals with disabilities, wish to acknowledge all their benefactors for supporting their annual events such as the summer camp, youth basketball tournament, Glow Walk, Tree of Angels, and awareness events. This year's events would have not been possible without wonderful people like you.

The groups said they continue to ask for the abovementioned entities' support in this coming year so that they can make lasting impressions for individuals with disabilities.

VOICES of the CNMI Tinian Chapter and TEAM KOKA will be holding the International Day of Acceptance honoring Annie Hopkins who died on Jan. 20, 2009 with simple medical procedure. She refused to accept her physical limitations from living a full, exciting, independent life that she wanted. She founded 3E Love to

make the world a better place, also creating the International Symbol of Acceptance, which shows a wheelchair in the shape of a heart.

To quote 3E Love: "Friends, tell the world you embrace who you are; a person with social rights, who has an opinion, who has interests, who has goals and who loves life; a person who is empowered to make a difference in the world and not be without a voice in society. You are not living disabled, you are living."

VOICES of the CNMI Tinian Chapter and TEAM KOKA will be having a dinner and silent auction on Jan. 20.

They will also be selling five different color awareness ribbons "Ribbon for A Reason" indicating certain types disabilities.

For more information, contact Monika Diaz, Jan Barcina, Mikaela Diaz, and Patricia Aguon or contact us teamkokacnmi@gmail.com or VOICES of the CNMI Tinian Chapter on Facebook. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LADY DIANN DONATION

Lady Diann Torres Foundation founder and president First Lady Diann Torres presented a donation to Gary Liddle of the Municipality of Rota for the purchase of a front row transparent canoe for kids with special needs.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan-da and his Christmas helpers greet arriving children and their families at Saipan International Airport on Dec. 24, 2017. With the help of the Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan-da distributed Saipan-da backpacks to visiting children arriving on 15 flights on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

OSHA cites USA Fanter after gas kills 3

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited USA Fanter for serious confined space violations after three employees died from exposure to hydrogen sulfide gas.

On July 7, 2017, USA Fanter employees were working in and around a well that was not identified as a permit-required confined space. When one employee was overcome by fumes after entering the well, two other employees attempted to rescue him, and were also overcome by the gas.

An OSHA investigation found that the company failed to conduct atmospheric testing, control atmospheric hazards, provide rescue and emergency services, and provide employee training.

The company faces \$59,576 in proposed penalties.

"This case demonstrates how failing to follow necessary procedures in confined spaces can have deadly consequences," said OSHA regional administrator Barbara Goto. "Employers must recognize the dangers of assigning work in confined spaces, and take appropriate precautions to protect workers' safety and health."

The company has 15 business days from receipt of its citations and penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director, or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>. (PR)

Military to conduct training at WA-517, FDM

ASAN, GUAM—The military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) during the following dates and times:

- Jan. 3 from 8:30am to 1:30pm
- Jan. 4 from 8:30am to 6pm
- Jan. 5 from 7:30am to 5pm
- Jan. 6 from 10am to 6pm

The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Jan. 3 from 8:30am to 9:30pm
- Jan. 4 from 8:30am to 6pm
- Jan. 5 from 7:30am to 5pm

It is recommended the general public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. W-517 is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10'N/144° 30"E, 13° 10'N/144° 42"E, 12° 50'N/144° 45"E, 11° 00'N/144° 45"E, 11° 00'N/143° 00"E, 11° 45'N/143° 00"E, 12° 50'N/144° 30"E.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. Farallon de Medinilla, located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, supports aircrew combat readiness training.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055. (PR)

Amata welcomes funds to ASG, applauds Justice Dept decision

WASHINGTON, D.C.—American Samoa Delegate Aumua Amata welcomed an important decision by the Justice Department adding the American Samoa Government to the agreement between StarKist and federal agencies. This action, in response to inquiries by Congresswoman Amata and Governor Lolo, directs \$2.6 million in agreed upon funds back from Washington to American Samoa.

Family Grief Support Group to meet on Jan. 4

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Jan. 4, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to parents, siblings, and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We have "been there." We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no "right way" to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and Saipan offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. (PR)



Amata
Lolo, re-
directs \$2.6 million in agreed upon funds back from Washington to American Samoa.

"This is great news for American Samoa, and keeps a substantial portion of these funds in the islands, as it should be," said Aumua Amata. "I believe the Justice

Department made the right decision to bring American Samoa into this agreement, and I applaud everyone involved for their willingness to consider all the facts and make this key change."

The new agreement retains the same total dollar amount, but the inclusion of ASG allows approximately one third of the funds to stay in American Samoa.

"All parties to this agree-

ment should be complimented for their willingness to include these considerations of the impact on American Samoa, and come to an agreement including the local community," continued

Congresswoman Amata. "I'd like to add a particular thank you to Governor Lolo as we worked together to highlight these facts and bring about a resolution that makes a real difference for the territory.

I would also like to thank Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo V. Ale for his hard work and dedication with the Department of Justice and the EPA to ensure that ASG received these funds." (PR)

Transnational group cements claim of West PH Sea in symbolic ceremony

Advocates for the preservation of territorial sovereignty and development of the West Philippine Sea (WPS) had a symbolic installation ceremony of the Philippine flag in Masinloc, Zambales on Dec. 9, 2017. The activity was the culmination of the outreach and medical mission program of the National Youth Movement for West Philippine Sea (NYMWPS).

Global Chair and founder Dr. Celia Lamkin said that the symbolic installation should send a message that the area which China continues to claim as theirs despite The Hague Tribunal ruling definitely belongs to the Philippines and that it should be respected. "We would like to remind the Filipinos that the West Philippine Sea is ours, and we should not give up that right," Lamkin said.

Lamkin added that Filipinos should work together to call on our government to uphold such right for the benefit of the fishermen whose livelihood depends on the bounties of the seas. "Our fishermen have been continuously deprived of access to a territory that was ruled to be ours," she said.

NYMWPS has been advised by the fishermen that they are still being bullied by Chinese fishermen backed up by the Chinese Coast Guard whenever they sail out to the area. "We are no match to their fishing vessels so they always get the bigger catch, yet we are still deprived with the small share that we are hoping to get from the area," says one fisherman who opted to be anonymous.

NYMWPS points out the still lackadaisical stance of the government in dealing with the WPS issue.

However, it welcomes the recent House panel approval of a measure seeking to declare the Kalayaan Island group in Palawan as "alienable and disposable land." The group has been advocating the develop-

ment of the islands, and is happy to note that the House declaration will promote business opportunities and trade and industry in the area by attracting investors. The group hopes that should this bill be enacted,

the implementing rules and regulations will have enough safeguards to ensure that ownership of land and investments in the Kalayaan Island Group will not be made available to those with conflict of interests.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The National Youth Movement for the West Philippine Sea officers, members, volunteers, Scarborough Shoal fishermen and community members of Barangay Poblacion, Masinloc, Zambales, Philippines, had symbolic installation the Philippine Flag at the West Philippine Sea (WPS) in Masinloc, Zambales for the preservation of territorial sovereignty and development of the West Philippine Sea.

Guam raises smoking age from 18 to 21

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam has raised its smoking age from 18 to 21.

Starting Monday, it is illegal for individuals under 21 to smoke cigarettes or vape or access tobacco products, the Pacific Daily News reported.

The new rule was unanimously passed by the Legislature and became law without

the governor's signature.

Those who are caught smoking illegally will be required to go through a mandatory education program that includes smoking cessation, according to the law.

Smoking rates in the island have declined in the past few years but remain higher than the national average, according to the

American Cancer Society.

Health care professionals who supported the law cited a report by the Institute of Medicine which predicts tobacco use in the country would drop by 12 percent if the legal smoking age was raised to 21.

The law also had the support of young adults who signed petitions and spoke

in favor of it, said Speaker Benjamin Cruz.

"This bill became law because of young people, not in spite of them," he said.

Johnny Lujan, 17, believes the law will lead to more people smoking illegally.

If he can be charged for a crime as an adult when he turns 18, he doesn't see why he should not be allowed to smoke.

"It just seems really dumb,"

Lujan said.

Cristopher Naputi, 20, who has been smoking since he was 18, agrees.

"I don't like it," he said. "Everyone has an opinion about it, but (smoking's) not hurting anybody."

Naputi does not plan to smoke illegally. Instead, he said he will use the months leading to his 21st birthday to decide whether he wants to continue smoking or quit.

Business

2017 WINNERS AND LOSERS: Amazon, Boeing soared; GE plunged



In this Monday, Dec. 4, 2017, file photo, specialist Gregg Maloney works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

NEW YORK (AP)—It was a strong year for the stock market, but 2017 was a great year if you made airplanes (think Boeing), were an online juggernaut (Amazon) or built homes (KB Homes). It was a year to forget if you were an energy company (Chesapeake) made Barbie dolls (Mattel) or if you were a storied industrial conglomerate about to go on a radical slim-down program (General Electric).

The stock market had a banner year overall, but there were plenty of big winners, and big losers, among individual U.S. companies. Here's a look at a few of them.

THE WINNERS

■ THE MIGHTY AMAZON:

Amazon's gain of 56 percent in 2017 was hardly shabby, but that number only begins to tell of the enormous effect the company had on the broader market. No other company struck as much fear in its rivals, or potential rivals.

Department stores and mall-based retailers continued to plunge as Americans did more of their shopping at Amazon, while other companies like Walmart raced to build up their own online offerings. And when Amazon snapped up Whole Foods in June, investors dumped the stocks of supermarket companies, certain they'd take a shellacking from their new competitor.

Blue Apron, a startup that went public in June, took a dive when Amazon got into the meal kit business. And in the fall, a number of drug-store companies tanked at the prospect that Amazon was thinking of getting into drug distribution.

■ BOEING TAKES FLIGHT:

Boeing soared 89 percent, one of its best years on record. The aerospace giant has benefited greatly as the global

economy kicked into a higher gear, increasing demand for airplanes. The U.S. economy continued to grow, while major regions like Europe and Japan did better than they had in recent years.

At the same time, military spending in the U.S. is expanding again. It had been declining as combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan wound down. Late in the year, Boeing became the highest-price stock on the Dow Jones industrial average, giving it more influence on the blue-chip index than any other company.

■ BREAKING GROUND:

Homebuilders made huge gains for the year as housing prices continued to rise. There are relatively few homes on the market, but demand is strong thanks to the growing economy, solid hiring, and low mortgages rates. Late in the year, sales of new homes reached a 10-year high, and many economists think the trend will continue in 2018.

The companies dramatically outperformed the market. NVR and KB Home both doubled, and PulteGroup and D.R. Horton rose almost as much. Without a lot of houses for sale, people also spent more money on home improvement. That was good for Home Depot and Lowe's.

THE LOSERS

■ GE'S DIMMING FORTUNES:

The icon of U.S. industry saw its stock price slump 45 percent as investors wondered what its future will look like. GE health care executive John Flannery replaced Jeffrey Immelt as chairman and CEO as Immelt's 16-year tenure came to an end. Soon after he took over, Flannery said GE will shed about \$20 billion in businesses over the next few years. He said 2018 will be a "reset"

for GE as the company narrows its focus down to aviation, health care and energy. GE slashed its dividend for the first time in decades, its chief financial officer and two vice chairs departed, and its board will shrink from 18 to 12.

■ LAGGING ENERGY:

Crude oil spent most of 2017 trading in circles, and energy companies faded after a big gain the year before. While oil prices are stronger than they were and energy companies have cut spending, it's hard to see what would make oil prices go higher and stay there. U.S. crude rallied late in the year, and on Dec. 29 it settled above \$60 a barrel for the first time in two and a half years, but analysts think that if prices did peak above their current levels, companies—especially shale oil firms in the U.S.—would start producing more oil, which would knock prices down again.

Among energy companies, Baker Hughes dropped 51 percent. Hess fell 24 percent and Exxon Mobil lost 7 percent.

■ FADED FUN:

Mattel didn't have much fun in 2017 either. Rival toy maker Hasbro continued to benefit from a partnership with Disney, as Hasbro's quarterly sales topped Mattel's at least twice. Mattel had outsold Hasbro every quarter for 17 years. In September retailer Toys R Us filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, which hurt both companies. But even with those problems and growing numbers of kids picking tablets over toys, Hasbro had a strong year and rose 17 percent. But Mattel plunged 44 percent. Its only real bright spot came in November, when the Wall Street Journal reported that Hasbro made an offer to buy Mattel. But those gains faded as Mattel reportedly rejected that overture.

However, despite concerns about his mental health, it seems officers weren't able to prevent the violence, even though they

Nation

AS TRUMP OPENS 2ND YEAR Perils abroad, full plate at home

WASHINGTON (AP)—The glamour of his holiday break behind him, President Donald Trump returned to the White House on Monday night to face a hefty legislative to-do list, critical midterm elections and perilous threats abroad.

Trump started his second year in Washington after a lengthy sojourn at his private club in Palm Beach, Florida, capped by a New Year's Eve bash. Before his departure for the capital, he fired angry tweets at Iran and Pakistan, slamming Islamabad for "lies & deceit" and saying the country had played U.S. leaders for "fools," a reference to frustrations that Pakistan isn't doing enough to control militants.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif tweeted that his government was preparing a response that "will let the world know the truth."

Meantime, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said Monday the United States should be aware that his country's nuclear forces are now a reality, not a future threat. To that, Trump only said: "We'll see."

The president is hoping for more legislative achieve-

ments after his pre-Christmas success on taxes. He plans to host Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin at Camp David next weekend to map out the 2018 legislative agenda.

Republicans are eager to make progress before attention shifts to the midterm elections. The GOP wants to hold House and Senate majorities in 2018, but must contend with Trump's historic unpopularity and some recent Democratic wins.

The president concluded 2017 with his first major legislative achievement - a law to cut taxes, beginning this year, for corporations and individuals at an estimated cost of \$1.5 trillion added to the national debt over 10 years. The tax overhaul also will end the requirement, in 2019, that all Americans buy health insurance or pay a fine.

That's a key component of the Obama-era health law that Republicans have been unable to repeal; other features of the law remain intact.

The White House has said Trump will come forward with his long-awaited in-

frastructure plan in January. Trump has also said he wants to overhaul welfare and recently predicted Democrats and Republicans will "eventually come together" to develop a new health care plan.

Ryan has talked about overhauling Medicaid and Medicare and other safety-net programs, but McConnell has signaled an unwillingness to go that route unless there's Democratic support for any changes. Republicans will have just a 51-49 Senate majority—well shy of the 60 votes needed to pass most bills—giving leverage to Democrats.

Congress also has to deal with a backlog from 2017. It must agree on a spending bill by Jan. 19 to avert a partial government shutdown.

Lawmakers also have unfinished business on additional aid to for hurricane victims, lifting the debt ceiling, extending a children's health insurance program and extending protections for immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children. Trump has said he wants money for a border wall in exchange for protecting those immigrants.

Colorado shooter was lawyer, Iraq war veteran

DENVER (AP)—A man who shot and killed a Colorado deputy and wounded four others along with two civilians was an attorney and an Iraq war veteran who had posted videos online in recent months criticizing professors and law enforcement officials, authorities said Monday.

Shooter Matthew Riehl, 37, died Sunday during what officials called an ambush at his apartment building in Highlands Ranch, 16 miles (28 kilometers) south of Denver.

Authorities say Riehl fired more than 100 rounds in his apartment before he was killed by a SWAT team.

Douglas County Deputy Zackari Parrish was killed.

Riehl had received warnings from authorities about his online videos involving University of Wyoming professors and Colorado law enforcement officers.

However, despite concerns about his mental health, it seems officers weren't able to prevent the violence, even though they

visited his apartment hours before the fatal shooting.

"KTWO-AM in Casper, Wyoming, reported that Wyoming College of Law students had been warned about Riehl, a former student, because of the social media posts critical of professors at the school in Laramie.

A Nov. 6 email from Assistant College of Law Dean Lindsay Hoyt told students to notify campus police if they saw Riehl or his car near campus.

In addition, security on campus was increased for several days.

Campus officers called police in Lone Tree, Colorado, in mid-November to warn them about Riehl, suggesting his rants were indicative of mental illness, UW Police Chief Mike Samp told The Denver Post.

Samp said it's possible that Colorado authorities faced the same issue as Wyoming officials when an apparently mentally ill, dangerous person makes indirect threats.

"Wyoming statutes are pretty clear: If someone is not

making an immediate threat, they cannot be held for a mental evaluation. They are very tough cases," Samp said.

A video posted on Nov. 28 showed a traffic stop of Riehl by a police officer in Lone Tree—apparently taken from inside the officer's car.

Riehl said the video was made illegally after the officer clocked the wrong driver. He identified the officer by name in the video and called him "dirty."

"Scumbag, dirt bag, liar," Riehl says as the officer questions the driver.

Riehl posted another video on Dec. 13, saying he was running as a libertarian to replace Douglas County Sheriff Tony Spurlock and complained about the sheriff and other officers in profane, highly personal terms.

Early Sunday, authorities responded to a complaint of a verbal disturbance involving two men at an apartment. A caller said Riehl was acting bizarre and might be having a mental breakdown, but responding deputies found no evidence of a crime.

Asia

Kim says US should know N. Korean nuclear force a reality

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said Monday that the United States should be aware that his country's nuclear forces are now a reality, not a threat. But he also struck a conciliatory tone in his New Year's address, wishing success for the Winter Olympics set to begin in South Korea in February and suggesting the North may send a delegation to participate.

Kim, wearing a Western-style gray suit and tie, said in his customary annual address that his country had achieved the historic feat of "completing" its nuclear forces and added that he has a nuclear button on his desk.

"The U.S. should know that the button for nuclear weapons is on my table," he said during the speech, as translated by The Associated Press.

"The entire area of the U.S. mainland is within our nuclear strike range. ... The United States can never start a war against me and our country," Kim said.

He also called for improved relations with the South, an idea mentioned in speeches more often than it is met. He said the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics would be a good opportunity to showcase the status of the Korean nation.

Trump slams Pakistan for 'lies & deceit' in New Year's tweet

ISLAMABAD (AP)—President Donald Trump slammed Pakistan for 'lies & deceit' in a New Year's Day tweet that said Islamabad had played U.S. leaders for 'fools.'

'No more,' Trump tweeted.

Trump in his tweet said the U.S. had given Pakistan \$33 billion in the last 15 years, yet Afghanistan and the U.S. have long accused Pakistan of providing safe havens for militants.

Meanwhile, Pakistan had no official comment but Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif tweeted that his government was preparing a response that 'will let the world know the truth.'

Pakistan's Urdu language Geo Television quoted Asif as saying: "We have already said 'no more' to America, so Trump's 'no more' has no importance. We are ready to give all account for every single penny to America in public."

Asif said Trump's tweet was borne out of frustration and that the United States should pursue dialogue with Afghanistan's insurgents rather than military force.

"America is frustrated over defeat in Afghanistan. Ameri-



South Koreans watch a TV news program showing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's New Year's speech, at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. AP

He also said the two Koreas could meet urgently to discuss the North sending a delegation.

"The Winter Olympic games that will be held soon in the South will be a good opportunity to display the status of the Korean nation and we sincerely wish that the event will be held with good results," he said.

South Korea's presidential office said it welcomed the proposal to hold talks between government officials over the issue of North Korea sending a delegation to the Olympics. The office of President Moon Jae-in said the successful hosting of the Pyeongchang Olympics would contribute to peace and harmony not only on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia, but in the

entire world.

The New Year's address is an annual event in North Korea and is watched closely for indications of the direction and priorities Kim may adopt in the year ahead.

This year's speech was seen as particularly important because of the high tensions over Pyongyang's frequent missile launches and its nuclear

test in 2017. The tests were the focus of fiery verbal exchanges between North Korea and President Donald Trump, who has derisively called Kim "little rocket man."

Kim also stressed North Korea's economic achievements during the speech, and noted the importance of improving the nation's standard of living.

ca should take the path of dialogue instead of using military might in Afghanistan," Asif was quoted as saying.

The Afghan Ambassador to the U.S. Hamdullah Mohib welcomed Trump's tweet.

"A promising message to Afghans who have suffered at the hands of terrorists based in Pakistan for far too long," Mohib tweeted.

The uneasy relationship between the United States and Pakistan has been on a downward spiral since the 2011 U.S. operation that located and killed Osama bin Laden in the military garrison town of Abbottabad.

Trump ratcheted up the pressure last year when he announced his Afghan strategy that called out Pakistan for harboring Afghan Taliban insurgents, which has denied harboring Afghan militants.

In a news conference last Thursday the Pakistani military spokesman, Gen. Asif Ghafoor said Pakistan wouldn't bow to coercion.

"What kind of friends are we that we are being given notices?" he asked at the news conference.

World

Iran protests have violent night

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Protests across Iran saw their most violent night as "armed protesters" tried to overrun military bases and police stations before security forces repelled them, killing 10 people, Iranian state television said Monday.

The demonstrations, the largest to strike Iran since its disputed 2009 presidential election, have seen five days of unrest across the country and a death toll of at least 13 with the slaying of a police officer announced late Monday.

The protests began Thursday in Mashhad over economic issues and have expanded to several cities, with some protesters chanting against the government and the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Hundreds of people have been arrested.

Iranian state television aired footage of a ransacked private bank, broken windows, overturned cars and a firetruck that appeared to have been set ablaze. It said 10 people were killed by security forces during clashes

» At least 13 dead overall

It did not say where the 10th person was killed.

Earlier Monday, the semi-official ILNA news agency quoted Hedayatollah Khademi, a representative for the town of Izeh, as saying two people died there Sunday night. He said the cause of death wasn't immediately known, though authorities later described one of the deaths as the result of a personal dispute.

Late Monday, Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency said an assailant using a hunting rifle killed a policeman and wounded three other officers during a demonstration

WORLD BRIEFS

Pence's office says VP visit to Israel remains in plans

JERUSALEM (AP)—Mike Pence's office on Monday said the U.S. vice president still plans on visiting Israel this month, despite an apparent delay in the schedule. Pence had been scheduled to come during the week of Jan. 14. But Israel's Foreign Ministry said Monday that the visit was no longer on its schedule for January. Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon gave no reason for the apparent delay, but said it was still possible that Pence could still decide to come. "It's not on our schedule," he said. "We can always adapt it and change it." Later Monday, Pence's deputy chief of staff, Jarrod Agen, said the visit was still on. "As we said, we are going later this month," he said, without providing specific dates. Agen also said that Pence is still planning to go to Egypt. Pence had been scheduled to visit Israel last month but called off the trip at late notice and said he would come instead in January.

State media says Syrian president reshuffles government

BEIRUT (AP)—President Bashar Assad reshuffled his government Monday replacing the ministers of defense, information and industry, Syria's state news agency SANA reported. SANA did not give a reason for the government reshuffle that comes at a time when Assad's forces have been gaining ground over the past two years under the cover of Russian airstrikes and with the help of Iran-backed fighters. It said army commander Gen. Ali Ayoub has been named defense minister replacing Fahd Jassem al-Freij who had held the post since 2012. Ayoub had been the army chief of staff since July 2012 until he became defense minister. The agency added

in the central city of Naja-fab, about 320 kilometers (200 miles) south of Tehran. The slaying marked the first security force member to be killed in the unrest.

Two protesters also were killed during clashes late Saturday in Doroud, some 325 kilometers (200 miles) southwest of Tehran in Lorestan province, authorities have said.

On Sunday, Iran blocked access to Instagram and the popular messaging app Telegram used by activists to organize.

President Hassan Rouhani acknowledged the public's anger over the Islamic Republic's flagging economy, though he and others warned that the government wouldn't hesitate to crack down on those it considers lawbreakers.

That was echoed Monday by judiciary chief Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani, who urged authorities to confront rioters, state TV reported.

"I demand all prosecutors across the country to get involved and the approach should be strong," he said.

that Imad Sarah has been named information minister while Mohammed Mazen Youssef was chosen as the new minister of industry. The announcement came as different parts of Syria witnessed violence, mostly in the suburbs of the capital Damascus and northwestern Syria, where troops are on the offensive on the southern edge of Idlib province.

Families from Florida, NY die in Costa Rica plane crash

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—Costa Rican investigators said Monday that strong winds or mechanical problems most likely caused a charter aircraft to crash in woods, killing two crewmembers and 10 U.S. citizens, including families from New York and Florida. The families from the New York City suburb of Scarsdale and from Belleair, Florida, accounted for nine of the dead and were part of a tour organized by Berkeley, California-based Backroads. Their American guide was the 10th U.S. victim. Michael Soto, deputy director of Costa Rica's Judicial Investigation agency, said strong winds were reported Sunday in the area of the crash and were being looked at as a possible factor in the crash of the Nature Air flight in Guanacaste. "No possibility can be left out for certain," Soto said. "We have two aspects: The principle one would be some weather condition and if there was a mechanical issue." Soto said authorities would begin identifying the remains through DNA testing and dental records Tuesday. Forensic workers recovered the bodies from the wooded site Sunday night. A family in the suburbs of New York City said five of the dead were relatives on vacation. They identified them as Bruce and Irene Steinberg and their sons Matthew, William and Zachary, all of Scarsdale.

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING: *Kanjiro camellia* has stood the test of time

By NORMAN WINTER
Tribune News Service

In Japanese the word Kanjiro means you must feel. I'm not sure if that means to touch or to experience, to me the Kanjiro camellia is one to experience. Kanjiro is known botanically as *Camellia hiemalis* and it made its debut in 1954. Touting a camellia cultivar that's entering its 64th year is a testament to both its character and performance in the landscape.

Over the last dozen years I've got to experience Kanjiro to its full beauty. When I was a horticulturist with Mississippi State University I had the opportunity to film several plant-



The Garden Bug **Know your zone**

The USDA maintains a website that provides plant hardiness zone information for all regions of the U.S.: planthardiness.ars.usda.gov

Data was taken from over 7,900 weather stations and bureaus and incorporated into maps available on the site. The map zones reflect the average lowest winter temperatures for each geographic area.

Source: United States Department of Agriculture

- Brenda Weaver



ed along the streets of downtown Brookhaven, Miss., as part of a beautification project.

My son has is using it to give some fall blooming razzle dazzle in Columbus, Ga. At the Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden we have planted hundreds. They were planted about five years ago as a screen for a chain link fence. I remember my first thought was that will take a while to do the job. Now 45 months later my thought is "Wow what a great idea they had."

Kanjiro is cold hardy from zones 7-10, which mean geographically that a little more than a third of the country can experience its beauty. The rest

of the country may choose to grow it in a container that is moved to protection during the winter.

Kanjiro is evergreen with dark glossy leaves that seem to be the perfect backdrop for the scores of rose-pink blooms sporting bright golden stamens. You can expect it to reach 8 to 10 feet in height and 6 to 8 feet wide.

Whether it is radio, TV, newspaper or in person, I am always preaching the placement of the needed bones of the landscape. This structure, of course, is only accomplished by having an adequate portion of evergreen plant material. Camellias like the Kan-

jiro would be a perfect choice. They have deep green, glossy leaves and yet also offer us weeks of terrific blooms.

Like all other camellias they require fertile well-drained acid soil. This coming spring would be a great time to plant woody shrubs and trees and by all means camellias like the Kanjiro. Garden centers will have their best inventory.

The camellias along our Judge Arthur Solomon Camellia Trail are all placed in a series of beds. The canopy of trees high overhead allows just the right amount of light for vigorous healthy growth. It only make sense that if we are going to make investment in the landscape, we need to do it right by putting our shrubs to bed. It is so sad to see a fine ca-

Life & Style

Fireworks, crystal ball help usher in 2018 around the world

New Year's Eve Celebrations

From spectacular fireworks in Hong Kong and Australia to a huge LED lightshow at the world's tallest building in Dubai, a look at how revelers around the world are ringing in 2018:

CALIFORNIA

The Golden State went green when the calendar turned to 2018.

Starting at midnight, California joined the growing list of states to legalize recreational marijuana. The moment is significant but will not be met with a non-stop pot party.

California has allowed medical marijuana for two decades, and the state is generally tolerant of the drug, so major changes are not expected as the laws are further eased. At least not on New Year's Day.

More than 90 outlets received licenses to sell in time for Jan. 1. None of those outlets is holding a midnight opening, but some in San Diego and the San Francisco Bay Area will be open for business starting at 6 a.m. Monday.

Some cities, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, will have to wait at least until later in the week before licensed outlets start selling there.

Still, some Californians ushered in the new year with marijuana.

Johnny Hernandez was celebrating legalization—which he described as “something we’ve all been waiting for”—by smoking “Happy New Year blunts” with his cousins in Modesto.

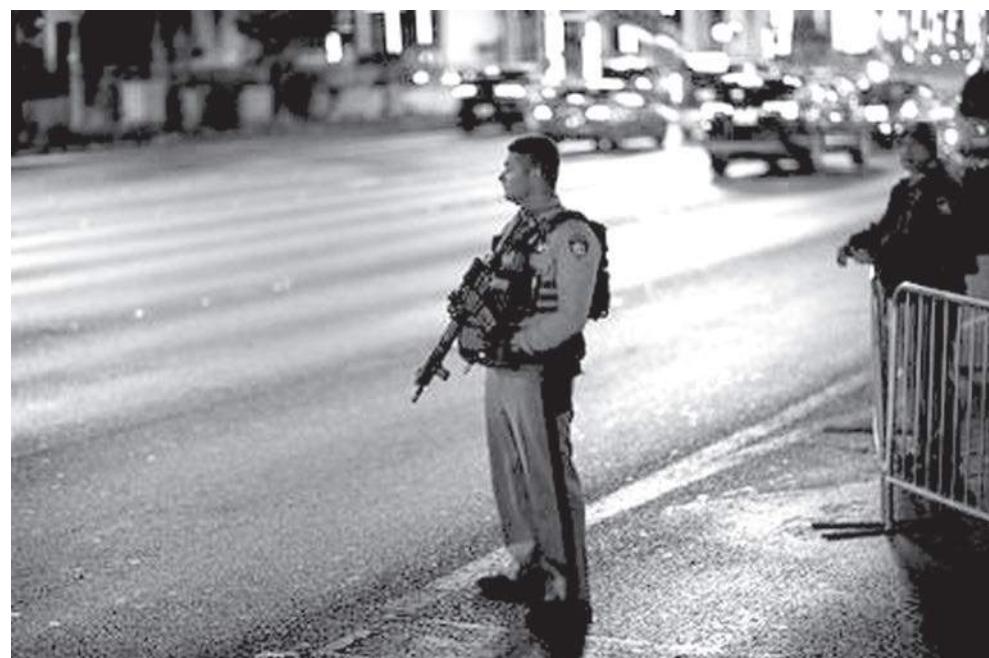
LAS VEGAS

Las Vegas police officers surrounded hundreds of thousands of tourists gathered to welcome the new year on the Strip, where just three months earlier 58 people died in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Police cruisers, dump trucks and other large vehicles blocked key intersections to try to prevent anyone from plowing into crowds filled with people wearing glittery hats, tiaras and other 2018-themed paraphernalia.

The Nevada National Guard activated about 350 soldiers and airmen, while federal authorities also deployed additional personnel.

A roughly eight-minute fireworks display at the top of seven of the city's world-famous casino-hotels started ten seconds before midnight



A Las Vegas police officer stands along the Las Vegas Strip, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017, in Las Vegas. AP

Monday. Sprays of gold, red and green lightened the sky on time for 2018.

Tourism officials expected 330,000 people to come to Sin City for the festivities on the Las Vegas Strip and downtown's Fremont Street.

Rosy-cheeked visitors took selfies and livestreamed the celebration amid temperatures in the mid-40s (4 Celsius), much warmer than most of the U.S.

NEW YORK

With a burst of confetti and fireworks, throngs of revelers ushered in 2018 in a frigid Times Square as the glittering crystal ball dropped.

It was the second-coldest on record, with the temperature only 10 degrees (minus 12 degrees Celsius) in New York at midnight.

Partygoers bundled up in extra layers, wearing warm hats and face masks, dancing and jogging in place to ward off the cold.

There was also tighter security than ever after two terrorist attacks and a rampaging SUV driver who plowed into a crowd on the very spot where the party takes place. The party went off with no major problems.

“Auld Lang Syne” and “New York, New York” played as the crowds cheered.

The coldest ball drop celebration was in 1917, when it was only 1 degree (minus 17 Celsius).

BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro's main party was celebrated with fireworks erupting on Copacabana beach after the clock struck midnight to usher in the new year.

After 17 minutes of a multicolored show in the skies, singer Anitta led the party on stage with her single “Vai Malandra,” a song that scored

84 million views on YouTube in two weeks. Some of the city's most traditional Carnival samba schools performed later.

New Mayor Marcelo Crivella said he believed the celebrations would bring 3 million people to the iconic beach, which would mean nearly half of Rio's population. But locals said Brazil's economic crisis is still impacting one of the city's biggest parties. In 2017, 2 million people showed up at Copacabana beach, a number that hasn't changed much over the years.

Almost 2,000 policemen patrolled the Copacabana region after yet another violent year on the streets. Rio's hotel association said occupation is nearly total, but mostly by Brazilian tourists.

GERMANY

Germans rang in 2018 under tight security from police mindful of widespread sexual abuse of women in Cologne two years ago and of a terrorist attack on a Christmas market about a year ago.

Police in Berlin added 1,600 officers on duty and said that large bags and knapsacks would not be allowed on the Party Mile leading from Brandenburg Gate, where thousands of people celebrated at midnight. Police in Frankfurt imposed similar restrictions in the celebration area along the Main River in the country's financial capital.

Two people died from fireworks injuries, but the country avoided a repeat of the mass groping in Cologne from 2016. Two years ago, New Year's in Cologne was marred by groping and theft committed against hundreds of women, in most cases by migrants. On Dec. 19, 2016, Tunisian asylum seeker Anis Amri drove a stolen

Two people died from fireworks injuries, but the country avoided a repeat of the mass groping in Cologne from 2016.

After 17 minutes of a multicolored show in the skies, singer Anitta led the party on stage with her single “Vai Malandra,” a song that scored

truck into a Christmas market in Berlin, killing 12 people.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Dubai's Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, has again served as the focal point of New Year's Eve celebrations—though this year authorities decided against fireworks and chose a massive LED lightshow on it.

That was in part due to safety in the city-state in the United Arab Emirates, which saw a massive skyscraper fire on New Year's Eve in 2015.

The display, running down the east side of the 828-meter-tall (2,716-foot-tall) tower, showed Arabic calligraphy, geometric designs and a portrait of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's first president.

But a display of neighboring nations' flags didn't show Qatar's flag. The UAE joined Bahrain, Egypt and Saudi Arabia in boycotting the tiny energy-rich nation in June over allegations Doha supports extremists and has too close ties to Iran. Qatar, which will host the 2022 FIFA World Cup, denies supporting extremists and shares a massive offshore natural gas field with Tehran.

VATICAN

Bidding 2017 farewell, Pope Francis has decried wars, injustices and environmental decay which he says have “ruined” the year.

Francis on Sunday presided at a New Year's Eve prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica, a traditional occasion to say thanks in each year's last hours.

He says God gave to us a 2017 “whole and sound,” but that “we humans in many ways ruined and hurt it with works of death, lies and injustices.”

But, he added, “gratitude

prevails” thanks to those “co-operating silently for the common good.”

In keeping with past practice, the pope on New Year's Day will celebrate Mass dedicated to the theme of world peace.

AUSTRALIA

Fireworks lit up the sky above Sydney Harbor, highlighting the city's New Year's celebrations.

The massive fireworks display included a rainbow waterfall cascade of lights and color flowing off the harbor's bridge to celebrate recently passed legislation legalizing gay marriage in Australia.

More than 1 million people were expected to gather to watch the festivities. Security was tight, but officials said there was no particular alert.

Sydney officials said the event would generate about \$170 million for the city and “priceless publicity.” Nearly half the revelers were tourists.

NEW ZEALAND

Tens of thousands of New Zealanders took to streets and beaches, becoming among the first in the world to usher in 2018.

As the new year dawned in this southern hemisphere nation, fireworks boomed and crackled above city centers and harbors, and party-goers sang, hugged, danced and kissed.

In Auckland, New Zealand's biggest city, tens of thousands gathered around Sky Tower as five minutes of nonstop pyrotechnics exploded from the top of the structure.

But on nearby Waiheke Island, 30 kilometers (20 miles) away, authorities canceled the planned fireworks display because of drought conditions and low water supplies for firefighters.

UGANDA

Thousands of Ugandans gathered at churches across the country to mark the end of 2017.

The raucous events, during which some preachers are known to make dubious predictions, have become such a staple of New Year's Eve festivities that the country's longtime president, Yoweri Museveni, sometimes makes time to make an appearance at a church.

Still, many in this East African country prefer to celebrate at crowded beaches on the shores of Lake Victoria or in darkened halls listening to the music of pop stars who take turns offering crowd pleasers until midnight.

Police warned revelers not to burn car tires in celebration, citing safety reasons, to discourage a favorite activity of those, especially in the countryside, who cannot afford fireworks.

RUSSIA

As Russians counted down the last moments before 2018 ticked over into each of the country's 11 time zones, President Vladimir Putin called on them to be considerate and conciliatory with each other in the new year.

“Say the most cherished words to each other, forgive mistakes and resentment, admit love, warm up with care and attention,” Putin said in a televised message broadcast on Sunday just before midnight.

Moscow had fireworks and outdoor gatherings despite weather that was less than festive. Usually festooned with snow at New Year's Eve, the Russian capital slogged through a long spell of intermittent rain and constant gray skies.

JAPAN

Many Japanese celebrated the arrival of the Year of the Dog in the traditional way of praying for peace and good fortune at neighborhood Shinto shrines and eating New Year's food such as noodles, shrimp and sweet black beans.

Barbecued beef and octopus dumpling stalls were out at Tokyo's Zojoji Temple, where people took turns striking the giant bell 108 times at midnight, an annual practice repeated at other Buddhist temples throughout Japan.

North Korea's nuclear and missile programs cast a shadow over Japan's hopes for peace, said cab driver Masaru Eguchi, who was ready to be busy all night shuttling shrine visitors.

“The world situation has grown so complex,” Eguchi said, adding that he also worried about possible terrorism targeting Japan. “I feel this very abstracted sense of uncertainty, although I really have no idea what might happen.”

INDIA

Security was tight in the southern Indian city of Bangalore to prevent a repeat of incidents of groping and molestation of several women during New Year's Eve celebrations a year ago.

Police Commissioner Sunil Kumar said at least 15,000 police officers were on duty and were being aided by drones and closed-circuit television cameras.

See FIREWORKS on Next Page

'Star Wars' passes 'Beauty and the Beast' as top 2017 earner

LOS ANGELES (AP)—On the last day of the calendar year, "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" has surpassed "Beauty and the Beast" as the top grossing film in North America in 2017. It also topped the charts for the weekend for the third time, but just barely—Dwayne Johnson's "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" is close on its tail.

According to studio estimates on Sunday, "The Last Jedi" will add \$52.4 million over the weekend bringing its domestic total to \$517.1 million. "Beauty and the Beast," also a Disney release, netted out with \$504 million for the year.

With the weekend's earnings, "The Last Jedi" will also cross the \$1 billion mark globally—even before it opens in China on Jan. 5.

But "Star Wars" is facing some hefty competition still, from the likes of The Rock, Jack Black and Kevin Hart, whose "Jumanji" sequel took in \$50.6 million in its second weekend in theaters to take second place. The Columbia Pictures film has earned a stunning \$169.8 million to date and could even reach \$300 million domestically by the end of its run.

The acapella franchise



People dressed as Star Wars stormtroopers and Big Bird wait to move off at the start of the annual New Year's Day street parade in London, Monday, Jan. 1, 2018.

"Pitch Perfect 3" took third place in weekend two, with \$17.8 million, bringing its total to \$64.3 million—still less than what "Pitch Perfect 2" earned on its opening weekend alone in May 2015 (\$69.2 million).

Another musical, "The Greatest Showman," with Hugh Jackman as P.T. Barnum, came in fourth place with \$15.3 million after adding 310 screens. The animated kids film "Ferdinand" took fifth with \$11.7 million.

In its first weekend in theaters after debuting on Christmas Day, Ridley Scott's "All

the Money in the World" took in \$5.5 million, bringing its total to \$12.6 million. The film got some added recognition when Scott replaced Kevin Spacey with Christopher Plummer and reshotted portions of the film only 6 weeks before it was set to hit theaters. But the hype of the impressive feat hasn't translated into big earnings.

Another adult-targeted film, Alexander Payne's "Downsizing," is struggling in theaters, taking in \$4.6 million in its second weekend in theaters. The Matt Damon-starrer has earned only \$17.1 million to

date against a \$68 million production budget.

In limited release, Aaron Sorkin's "Molly's Game," starring Jessica Chastain, earned \$2.33 million. The film about the "poker princess" Molly Bloom expands on Jan. 5. And Paul Thomas Anderson's "Phantom Thread" earned \$220,000 from four theaters over the weekend after its Christmas opening. Starring Daniel Day-Lewis as a designer, "Phantom Thread" has grossed \$531,000 to date.

"As end of year mar-

1. "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," \$52.4 million (\$68 million international).
2. "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," \$50.6 million (\$67 million international).
3. "Pitch Perfect 3," \$17.8 million (\$13.1 million international).
4. "The Greatest Showman," \$15.3 million (\$28.5 million international).
5. "Ferdinand," \$11.7 million (\$23.1 million international).
6. "Coco," \$6.6 million (\$21.4 million international).
7. "All the Money in the World," \$5.5 million (\$1.4 million international).
8. "Darkest Hour," \$5.3 million.
9. "Downsizing," \$4.6 million (\$1.4 million international).
10. "Father Figures," \$3.7 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," \$68 million.
2. "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," \$67 million.
3. "Ex-File 3 (Quan Ren 3)," \$41.1 million.
4. "Goldbuster (Yao Ling Ling)," \$38.4 million.
5. "Youth," \$28 million.
6. "Hanson and the Beast," \$25.5 million.
7. "Ferdinand," \$23.1 million.
8. "Namiya," \$21.4 million.
9. "Coco," \$21.4 million.
10. "Along with the Gods: The Two Worlds," \$20.1 million.

ketplaces go, this is a great time to be a moviegoer," said Paul Dergarabedian, a senior media analyst for comScore. "There are so many movies out there, the only trick is how do you see all of them."

The year as a whole will surpass \$11 billion again, with comScore projecting \$11.12 billion, which is down 2.3 percent from last year's record-breaking grosses (\$11.4 billion), and almost on par with 2015's \$11.14 billion.

"We actually had a really great end of year surge," Dergarabedian said. "Star Wars' adding about a half billion dollars didn't hurt. But 'Star Wars' didn't do this alone. It's not just about the big movies at the top, it's also about the smaller movies that provided a really great foundation. Every dollar counts."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Tuesday.

Crush on mother-in-law's new husband stirs family tension

DEAR ABBY: My son and his wife have been together 10 years. They met and fell in love young. They are only 25 and have two beautiful children.

I remarried three years ago, and my son's wife was instantly attracted to my 54-year-old husband. It's always uncomfortable for the two of us when they come to visit. She stares at him throughout the entire visit, tries to either sit right next to him or directly across from him, and expects a hug every time they arrive and leave. (We finally put a stop to it because she would wait to hug him last and then hold him extra long.)

My husband confided that he's flattered a 25-year-old gives him that much attention. Three years of this can be very wearing. Anything I can do and NOT lose my son?

AWKWARD IN THE EAST

DEAR AWKWARD: Tell your son that it appears his wife has a crush on your husband, and that while he is flattered that someone so young would find him attractive, her behavior makes both of you uncomfortable. Then let him explain to her that it is time to cool her engines.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been best friends with a woman for 30 years, but lately our relationship has become strained. If I do something that irritates her, she gives me the cold shoulder and won't return my phone calls. When she eventually calls back,

she's distant and cold.

I was out of the country for an extended period, and when I returned, she was upset with me for not phoning her. Now she's upset with me because my husband and I missed an important milestone because of a family emergency.

I am tired of her passive-aggressive behavior, and I have come to realize that our lives have taken us in different directions. Mine is family-oriented. Hers is not because she has no children. Am I wrong to feel this way?

FRUSTRATED IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR FRUSTRATED: No, your perception is accurate. Your "bestie" appears to be unusually high maintenance. Rather than allow her to make you feel guilty, realize that not all friendships last forever, and this one may have run its course. Talk to her and express your feelings about this, but be prepared for the fact that it will probably end your relationship.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are in our 60s. We have been married for some time and are very open-minded. She keeps insisting that she does not remember her first sexual experience. I would be curious to understand why in the world, unless someone was inebriated, the person would not recall this huge milestone.

by celebratory firecrackers in the Philippines, which has some of the most raucous New Year's celebrations in Asia.

Although the number of injuries has tapered off in recent years, largely due to hard economic times and government scare campaigns, the figures remain alarming. President Rodrigo Duterte signed an order confining the use of firecrackers to community-designated areas, such as near shopping malls and parks.

Many Filipinos, largely in-

fluenced by Chinese tradition, believe that noisy New Year's celebrations drive away evil and misfortune. But they have carried that superstition to extremes, exploding dangerously large firecrackers and firing guns to welcome the new year despite threats of arrest.

TURKEY

Security measures were ramped up across Turkey, which a year ago was hit by a New Year's attack that killed dozens of people. In Istanbul, 37,000 officers

were on duty, with multiple streets closed to traffic and large vehicles barred from entering certain districts. Several New Year's Eve street parties were canceled for security reasons.

Early on Jan. 1, 2017, an assailant shot his way into Istanbul's Reina nightclub, where hundreds of people were celebrating New Year's. Thirty-nine people, mostly foreigners, were killed, and 79 were wounded. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility.

On Sunday, about 100 peo-

ple gathered outside the nightclub to remember the victims of the attack.

LAS VEGAS

Tens of thousands of revelers will ring in the new year in Las Vegas under the close eye of law enforcement just three months after the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. Tourism officials expect about 330,000 people to visit Las Vegas for the festivities, which are anchored by a roughly eight-minute fireworks display at the top of

seven casino-hotels.

Acts including Bruno Mars, Britney Spears, Celine Dion and the Foo Fighters will keep partiers entertained before and after midnight at properties across Sin City.

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department had every officer working Sunday, while the Nevada National Guard activated about 350 soldiers and airmen.

The federal government sent dozens of personnel to assist with intelligence and other efforts.

FIREWORKS

From Page 19

A year ago, police first denied that any sexual harassment had taken place during the celebrations in Bangalore, India's information technology hub. But later, police detained at least six men after several video clips of women being attacked by groups of men spread on social media.

PHILIPPINES

Scores of people were injured



DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

BEWILDERED IN THE WEST

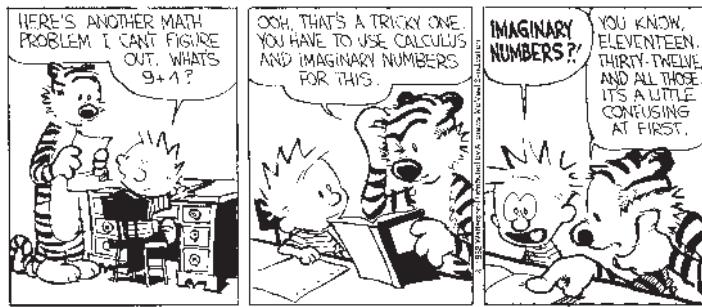
DEAR BEWILDERED: Not every question needs an answer. If your wife's first experience was unpleasant or traumatic, she may have repressed the memory. Or she may simply prefer not to discuss it with you. My intuition tells me that you will have nothing to gain by continuing to push her. If you do, it not only won't bring you closer; it may do the opposite.

■■■

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



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CROSSWORD

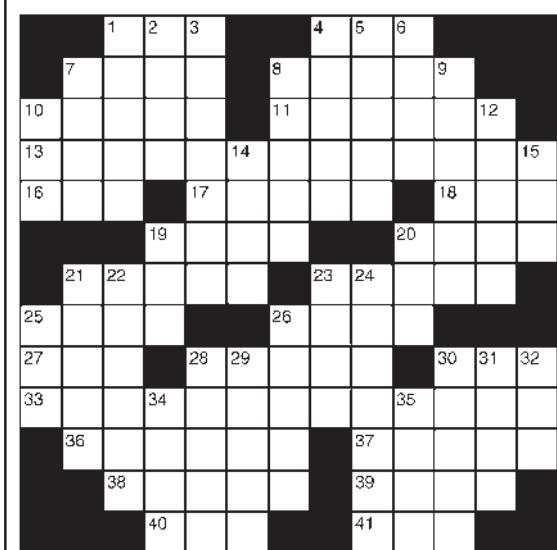
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	30 100%	2 Actor	14 Dull
1 Apiece	33 Commu-	Estrada	sound of
4 Conditi-	nities of	3 Indy	impact
7 O'Hara	friends,	4 Baghdad	15 Rds.
estate	family,	resident	19 Tina
8 Locales	etc.	5 Leg bone	of "30
10 Army doc	36 Pestle	6 Gilbert	Rock"
11 Musket	partner	20 Stir-fry	pan
accessory	37 Trojan	of "The	21 Late Sen.
13 Open-air	War story	Talk"	WELL, I'M SURE
venues	38 Strainer	7 Ship	A DO I HAVE
for com-	39 Poet	wood	HOBBIES? I
merce	Ogden	8 Bad	USED TO HAVE
16 Mamie's	40 Soon-to-	9 Fruity fro-	HOBBIES.
man	be grads	zen	WELL, I'M SURE
17 Gospel	41 Busy	10 2001, to	A DO I HAVE
group	insect	Cato	HOBBIES? I
18 Night flier	12 One of	25 "Mayday!"	USED TO HAVE
19 Mythic	Franklin's	26 "—	HOBBIES.
man-goat	certain-	28 Western	WELL, I'M SURE
20 Saturates	ties	flick	A DO I HAVE
21 Mortimer	1 San	29 Balkan	HOBBIES? I
the	Diego	natives	USED TO HAVE
dummy	player	30 Top	HOBBIES.
23 Canine,	13	invitees	WELL, I'M SURE
for one	2 San	31 Wife of	A DO I HAVE
25 Remain	Diego	Jacob	HOBBIES? I
26 Ailing	player	32 Leary's	USED TO HAVE
27 Bobby of	14	drug	HOBBIES.
hockey	2 San	34 Rainbow	WELL, I'M SURE
28 Japanese	Diego	35 Family	A DO I HAVE
seaport	player		HOBBIES? I

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-3



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Eli Manning, 37; Danica McKellar, 43; Mel Gibson, 62; Victoria Principal, 68.

Happy Birthday: Personal changes can be made. Looking back will help you assess your situation and determine the best way to move forward. Don't limit what you can do just because someone is trying to convince you to settle for less. Consider what you have missed out on in the past and make every effort to ensure that you follow your heart moving forward. Your numbers are 1, 13, 17, 26, 29, 34, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Personal improvements should be your goal. Fitness, proper nutrition and personal growth should be your focus. Don't take your anger out on others. Look inward before you put the blame elsewhere. Reevaluate and begin again.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll face some opposition if you aren't accommodating or you don't consider what others want or need. It's not always easy to please everyone, but finding common ground will help you get one step closer to your goals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Learn as you go. Listen carefully and observe the way others handle situations similar to your own. A change in a relationship you have with someone will be beneficial and prompt you to move forward. Speak from the heart.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Rethink your financial situation and where your money comes from. Look for alternate ways to use your qualifications in order to raise

your standard of living. Moderation and reducing your overhead should also be considered. Avoid indulgent individuals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look for ways to expand your interests, knowledge and connections. Attending networking functions and interacting with people who have a broader view of some of the trials you face will give you insight into future trends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotional spending and overreacting to situations that are inevitable will be detrimental to achieving your personal goals. Moderate tactics may take longer, but in the end you will get what you want. Overindulgence will only mask your problems.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let the changes happening around you cloud your vision. Look past what everyone else is doing and you'll find a way to protect your interests without getting caught in someone else's dilemmas.

Stay focused and do what's best for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't give in to emotional spending. You can help by offering sound advice, not by putting your financial security in jeopardy. Older relatives will be a cause for worry. Do what you can, but not at your own expense.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make alterations at home that will cut your overhead and ease your stress. Having a system in place will give you a sense of accomplishment.

Look over a settlement or medical plan carefully before you apply your signature.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Listen and learn. Collaborating with someone who means a lot to you will ensure that you both get something out of your relationship. Strive for equality and stability, and be on the lookout for romance.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider how well you get along with the people you are dealing with daily. You may need to make adjustments to the party of some of your relationships if you feel you are being taken for granted.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional spending will leave you low on cash. Think twice before you sign up for something you don't need. Discussing your plans with someone you trust will help discourage you from making a mistake. Don't burn bridges.

Birthday Baby: You are appealing, intense and possessive. You are hardworking and ambitious.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	3	2	8					
	1			6				
3	9			5	7			
9						3		
6						1		
	2	3	4	1	7	8		
	9		2					
5				4				
2	7	8	5	3				

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	2	4	9	7	6	3	5	1
5	9	6	1	3	4	2	7	8
7	3	1	8	2	5	4	9	6
4	1	3	6	9	8	5	2	7
2	8	5	7	4	1	6	3	9
6	7	9	3	5	2	8	1	4
1	5	2	4	6	7	9	8	3
9	6	8	5	1	3	7	4	2
3	4	7	2	8	9	1	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUVELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

NORTHWESTERN PACIFIC BASIN

T	A	F	O	T	R	O	P	I	C	A	L	R	S	M
N	M	T	R	A	P	E	D	A	R	S	M	N	E	E
E	M	A	A	F	E	R	R	E	E	L	O	A	V	A
M	S	A	N	D	P	E	Y	A	A	O	T	E	E	S
I	E	E	R	T	A	A	S	R	D	W	T	C	N	U
D	K	N	H	I	L	O	G	C	N	A	O	O	W	R
E	A	O	C	I	N	E	G	O	I	B	B	O	O	E
S	U	L	O	A	S	E	I	E	W	R	L	F	L	M
E	Q	L	L	T	N	T	L	T	A	F	L	A	L	E
A	H	A	D	O	C	O	S	T	U	L	U	A	N	
F	T	R	Z	A	H	A	O	U	X	S	I	N	H	T
L	R	A	R	E	O	L	O	E	R	T	R	A	S	S
O	A	F	R	C	A	E	S	U	A	C	D	L	P	I
O	E	O	P	H	I	O	L	I	T	E	S	U	A	Z
R</td														

CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: More in sorrow than in anger

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Must have an associate degree in college preferably in Business and Marketing Management with at least 5 years work-related experience in Sales and Marketing with emphasis on sales strategies, revenue management, and with experience in inventory control and management. Proficient in the use of software programs such as but not limited to MS Word and Excel software and Peachtree Inventory System. Sales Associate must possess experience primarily in the given fields, must be a dynamic team player and be able to strategically project the business operation and reporting. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Applications can be submitted at PC Bargain Corporation located on the Ground Floor, Tun Kiku's Building at Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, January 5, 2018.

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Gemkell Saipan Corp. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Boutique Supervisor, Bottega Veneta (1)

High School Diploma or a GED with one (1) to two (2) years of related or applicable work and management experience in luxury retail environment. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Must be familiar with the POS System.

Sales Associate (5)

High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Inventory Planner (1)

High School Diploma or GED with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/facsimile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards, with or without using a trolley, and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley. Must be able to drive Company provided vehicles. Must be able to bend, kneel, crouch, or crawl in awkward positions. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted **not later than 5:00PM on January 10, 2018**. Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug test will be required prior to employment.

Saipan Adventures Inc. dba Saipan Adventures invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Tour Sales Representative (2)

High School Diploma or GED with a minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in travel or tour operation, sales or service related field. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes. Preferred Fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages.

Accounting Assistant (2)

High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Customer Service Agent (2)

High School Diploma or GED with at least two (2) months work experience in travel/tour operation or sales or service based work environment, room reservations and vendor relations. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Supervisor (3)

High School Diploma or GED. At least one (1) to two (2) years of related supervisory experience in a luxury retail environment. Must have the knowledge and computer skills to handle the POS register and other operations and communication systems.

To be considered, applications must be submitted **not later than 5:00 PM on January 10, 2018**. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Saipan Adventures Inc. Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Awee, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9715 Facsimile (670) 236-9702

**REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS
RFP18-JUDICIARY-01**
SUBMISSION DATE: January 27, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE"
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

*/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE* */s/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER*

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DLNR/LRS-034**
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 22, 2018 TIME: 10:30 A.M.
"PURCHASE OF ONE 60" LARGE FORMAT COLOR PRINTER PLOTTER FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES,
DIVISION OF LANDS, REGISTRATION, & SURVEY"

COPIES OF SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCIION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

*/s/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLRN* */s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S*

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DCCA/HPO-035**
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 22, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW DIGITAL COLOR COPIER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCIION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

*/s/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA* */s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S*

PUBLIC NOTICE
**NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF
JINYU INVESTMENT CO., LTD**
Notice is hereby given that JINYU INVESTMENT CO., LTD is hereby dissolving the corporation effective Jan. 1, 2018.

All persons having claims against the corporation are requested to present them in writing and mail to:
Ren, Ni
PMB 538 Box 10003
Saipan, MP 96950

This announcement will serve as a notice to all parties concerned of the legal dissolution of the said corporation.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2017
Opening date: January 3, 2018 Closing date: January 19, 2018
Positions: (5) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than 5:00 pm on January 19, 2018.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the West Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or evelyn.sablun@cpa.gov.mp by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

(1) SALES MANAGER (CHINA MARKET)
Minimum of three (3) years of hotel industry experience, plus one (1) year of Chinese Market sales management experience. Must be proficient in speaking, reading and writing the English and Chinese languages, and be proficient with the use of Microsoft Office. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Wednesday, January 17, 2018.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Visit us at:
Make-A-Wish Guam
590 South Marine Corps Drive. ITC
Bldg, Suite 109
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Tel: (670) 483-9474
Email: info@guam.wish.org
www.guam.wish.org

Herb Adell
Saipan Tribune

"I want to be a firefighter!"
BJ Belacora, 6 yrs.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-18-2008**

**For: HAPPY CHILDREN IN PARADISE CAMPAIGN
20th ANNIVERSARY SAIPAN-DA BACKPACKS**

Submission /Closing Date: **January 22, 2018** Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **December 18, 2017**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by January 22, 2018, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Ms. Brenda Repeki in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a **Notice of Intent** by any mode of written communication including facsimile at +1-670-664-3237 or email to brepeki@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **January 22, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Ms. Brenda Repeki at brepeki@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on January 5, 2018**.

*/s/ Christopher J. Nelson
Acting Chairperson, Board of Directors* */s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director*

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

**INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 18-002**

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A NEW FILTRATION SYSTEM

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of a NEW AQUATIC FILTRATION EQUIPMENT.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, 2017** between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

For Bidder located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., JANUARY 19, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 18-002 packet via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, award # 2016-31100 (Regular).

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

*/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager*

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

**INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 18-003**

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NEW COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR CREE'S SAIPAN, ROTA AND TINIAN STATIONS

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of NEW COMPUTER SYSTEMS for CREE'S Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, 2017** between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

For Bidder located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., JANUARY 22, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 18-003 packet via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, award # 2016-31100 (Regular).

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

*/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager*

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

Alabama vs Georgia for national championship

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Alabama and Georgia won their College Football Playoff semifinals on Monday and will meet in the national championship next week in Atlanta, the home of the Southeastern Conference title game.

The fourth-ranked Crimson Tide smothered No. 1 Clemson 24-6 in their Sugar Bowl rubber match after the third-ranked Bulldogs won the first overtime in Rose Bowl history, a wild 54-48 victory that eliminated No. 2 Oklahoma and Heisman Trophy winner Baker Mayfield.

It will be the second time in seven seasons that the national title will come down to two SEC teams. Alabama beat LSU in New Orleans to win the 2011 championship. At least this all-SEC affair next Monday night won't be a rematch: Georgia and Alabama did not play in 2017.

Both will be making a return trip to Mercedes-Benz Stadium on Jan. 8. Alabama started its season in the shiny new home of the Atlanta Falcons by beating Florida State. The Tide hoped it would be the first of three trips to Atlanta, but it let the second one slip away. Alabama's regular-season finale loss at Auburn cost the Tide the SEC West and spot in the conference title game against Georgia.

It did not, however, cost the Crimson Tide a playoff spot. The College Football Playoff selection committee gave Alabama the final spot in even though the Tide failed to win its conference. Did Alabama deserve the benefit of the doubt after a season in which it was low on marquee victories? Ohio State fans didn't think so, and the Buckeyes finished fifth in the final CFP rankings.



Georgia linebacker Lorenzo Carter (7) blocks a field goal attempted by Oklahoma kicker Austin Seibert (43) during overtime in the Rose Bowl NCAA college football game, Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, in Pasadena, Calif. Georgia won, 54-48.

AP

Fueled by the doubters, Alabama smashed the defending national champions from Clemson. The Crimson Tide will be playing in the title game for the third straight season and looking for its fifth national championship under Nick Saban since 2009.

The Bulldogs made the playoff by avenging a late-season loss to Auburn, beating the Tigers in the SEC title game on Dec. 2 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, about 70 miles from its campus in Athens.

"Going back home to Atlanta," Georgia star tailback Nick

Chubb said. "We've been there before and hopefully we can get the same outcome, but we've got a lot of preparation to do before that."

The SEC title was Georgia's first since 2005. The Bulldogs have not won a national championship since 1980. They have also not beaten Alabama since 2007, Saban's first season in Tuscaloosa. They have only played three times since then with the Crimson Tide winning each, including a classic SEC championship game at the old Geor-

gia Dome in 2012.

The Bulldogs' failure to reach win championships, conference and national, was the main reason Georgia pushed out longtime coach Mark Richt and replaced him with former Alabama assistant Kirby Smart in 2016.

Smart's first season in Athens was a so-so 8-5 campaign, but the Bulldogs have taken off in year two, led by stellar group of seniors that includes 1,000-yard rushers Sony Michel and Nick Chubb.

Michel raced 27 yards for a touchdown in the second over-

time to give No. 3 Georgia the victory.

Michel, who had a fumble in the fourth quarter returned for a go-ahead Oklahoma touchdown, ran for 181 yards and three scores for the Bulldogs (13-1), but none bigger than the last one.

"I made plays. I gave up plays. My team just had faith in me," said Michel, who did all that damage on just 11 carries and got a hug from former Bulldogs great tailback Garrison Hearst after scoring the winning TD. "That's what this team is all about. They showed

true character today."

Michel and his roommate and running mate Nick Chubb were awesome for Georgia. Chubb ran for 145 yards and two touchdowns, including a 2-yarder on a direct snap with 55 seconds left in regulation to tie it. The Sooners had taken a 45-38 lead when Steven Parker returned Michel's fumble for a TD with 6:52 left in the fourth.

"I told him that he had to keep running and trying to hit the corner," Chubb said. "We had a long game and after the fumble, we went down and he made up for it with that run to win the game."



ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—It took four months and a dramatic turn of events on one of the final plays of the NFL's regular season for coach Sean McDermott and the Buffalo Bills to finally—and succinctly—put to rest any suggestion the team had any intention of tanking last summer.

"I'll let you guys handle that," McDermott said, referring to reporters on Monday. "We're moving on after today to the first round of the playoffs."

And that's all that matters to the first-year coach, who took the high road rather than an "I told you so" approach some 18 hours after the Bills clinched the AFC's sixth and final playoff berth and ended a 17-year postseason drought—the longest in North America's four major professional sports.

McDermott never gave

Bills reverse tank talk, end 17-year playoff drought

into the doubters and instead preached a simple "Trust The Process" message that resonated with his players.

"Every season's a little bit different. Every season you go through tests and challenges," McDermott said.

"It's going to try to pull you apart. It's going to test you, and it's going to test your mental toughness," he added. "And our players hung in there."

Rather than packing up, as 17 of Buffalo's preceding teams did on the day after the regular-season finale, these Bills returned home to a jubilant reception early Monday.

They were greeted at Buffalo Niagara International Airport by some 400 chanting fans, who braved 2-degree temperatures after Buffalo beat Miami 22-16 and clinched its playoff berth once Baltimore gave up a

last-minute touchdown in a 31-27 loss to Cincinnati.

McDermott is even considering sending the Bengals a gift—chicken wings, perhaps—as a thank you for Andy Dalton hitting Tyler Boyd for a 49-yard touchdown pass on fourth-and-12 with 44 seconds left.

And now, Buffalo (9-7) is moving on in preparing to play at AFC South champion Jacksonville (10-6) on Sunday.

McDermott rewarded his players by giving them the next two days off, before the team returns to practice Wednesday.

They earned it.

Buffalo overcame exceedingly low expectations following a major yearlong roster overhaul which led to the departures of numerous high-priced stars.

Among the players traded were receiver Sammy Watkins

(to the Los Angeles Rams) and defensive tackle Marcell Darius (Jacksonville).

The Bills' secondary was retooled as was their group of receivers, leaving the team to open the season with 24 holdovers from 2016.

On the field, the Bills overcame the elements by beating Indianapolis 13-7 in overtime amid white-out conditions on Dec. 10.

And the team failed to unravel when McDermott's decision to start Nathan Peterman backfired after the rookie quarterback threw five interceptions in the first half of a 54-24 loss to the Los Angeles Chargers on Nov. 19.

Buffalo could face even more adversity with running back LeSean McCoy's status uncertain after hurting his right ankle against Miami.

What stood out to McDermott was how the Bills responded to the loss to the Chargers the following week by snapping a three-game skid with a 16-10 win at Kansas City.

"If you're going to put a landmark moment for this first year, that was probably one of them," he said of a win that improved Buffalo's record to 6-5.

"That goes back to the resiliency of this football team and really what this city is all about ... that no matter what people say about us, we're going to compete like crazy."

McDermott needed no more validation of how his team has captured the imagination of its supporters than witnessing the scene at the airport. Fans waved Bills flags and placards, sang the team's "Shout!" song and chanted "Let's Go Buffalo."

"I've been around a couple of playoffs or two in my 20 years around the NFL, and that was unmatched," he said. "This type of welcome home just speaks volumes about our city and our fans."

Defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier said the staff and players couldn't initially see the fans while de-boarding the plane, but could hear them.

"We were like, 'This is incredible.' It just kind of brings home what this means to Buffalo, to western New York," Frazier said. "It just pushes you on to want to keep it going and just show them how much we appreciate their support."

Rookie tackle Dion Dawkins was stunned by the reception.

"It's 2 degrees out here and they're screaming their tails off," Dawkins said. "This is just flat-out unbelievable."

Funny, some were saying the same about the Bills' playoff chances four months ago, too.

DeRozan sets franchise-high 52, Raptors beat Bucks



TORONTO (AP)—DeMar DeRozan spent his New Year's Day watching basketball history and making some, too.

DeRozan scored a franchise-record 52 points, and the Toronto Raptors beat the Milwaukee Bucks 131-127 in overtime on Monday night, matching the team record with their 12th consecutive home victory.

DeRozan said he spent some time earlier in the day watching the final few minutes of Game 6 of the 1998 NBA Finals, in which Hall of Famer Michael Jordan beat the Utah Jazz with a late jump shot, giving the Chicago Bulls their sixth title in eight seasons.

"I remember being a kid and wishing to be in moments like that," DeRozan said. "When you come out here and you're in those moments, you've got to make the best out of them."

DeRozan sure did, becoming the third player in Raptors history to score 50 or more in a single game. The others are Vince Carter and Terrence Ross, who each had 51.

"I for sure wanted to beat T-Ross," DeRozan joked about eclipsing his former teammate.

DeRozan scored the first nine points of the game and had 21 in the first, the most by a Raptors player in a single quarter this season.

"He was playing with a lot of juice," coach Dwane Casey said. "You could see the bounce in his step. Tonight, DeMar DeRozan played like a superstar."

DeRozan made 17 of 29 field-goal attempts and went 13 for 13 at the free-throw line. His five 3-pointers were one shy of his career high.

"He's dangerous any time he puts on a uniform," Bucks coach Jason Kidd said. "Now to be able to expand his range out to the 3-point line just makes the game easier for him."

Kyle Lowry had 26 points and Serge Ibaka added 11 for the Raptors, who also won 12 straight at Air Canada Centre between Jan. 18 and March 6, 2016. Toronto is an NBA-best 14-1 at home.

Eric Bledsoe scored 29 points, including 11 in overtime, and Giannis Antetokounmpo had 26 for the Bucks, who had won their previous two. Khris Middleton finished with 18 points in the entertaining rematch between first-round playoff opponents from last season, a series Toronto won in six.

Fred VanVleet gave Toronto the lead for good with a 3-pointer at 3:51 of overtime, and DeRozan followed with a jump shot, making it 121-117 Raptors.



AP Toronto Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan (10) shoots over Milwaukee Bucks forward John Henson (31) as Bucks guard Tony Snell, left, looks on during first half NBA basketball action in Toronto on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018.

C.J. was his assists.

"In the fourth quarter and overtime he made good decisions."

Led by Mirotic and Bobby Portis, the Bulls' bench helped them overcome a sluggish start. Each had nine points in a second quarter in which Chicago's reserves outscored Portland's 18-7.

But both were on the bench for the final 7 1/2 minutes of the fourth quarter and all of overtime. Portis finished with 14 points, seven rebounds and four assists.

"I just thought with (Jusuf) Nurkic out there we had to find a way to keep him off the glass," Bulls coach Fred Hoiberg said. "He's too big and strong out there. I felt like we needed Robin (Lopez), who also was playing well."

Timberwolves 114, Lakers 96

In Minneapolis, Jimmy Butler scored 28 points, and Minnesota won for the seventh time in eight games.

Karl-Anthony Towns recorded his 30th double-double of the season with 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Timberwolves. Andrew Wiggins scored 21 points and grabbed a season-high nine rebounds.

The Lakers have lost seven in a row and 10 of 11. Los Angeles was once again missing three starters: center Brook Lopez (ankle), and guards Kentavious Caldwell-Pope (legal) and Lonzo Ball (shoulder).

Jordan Clarkson scored 20 points for the Lakers, and Julius Randle had 15.

Nets 98, Magic 95

In New York, rookie Jarrett Allen had a career-high 16 points for Brooklyn, and Allen Crabbe added 15 points and blocked a potential tying shot.

Caris LeVert also had 15 points, while DeMarre Carroll chipped in 14 points, 10 rebounds and the tiebreaking free throw with 34.5 seconds remaining. Rondae Hollis-Jefferson scored 13 for the Nets, who opened the new year with a win after closing out 2017 with a 1-4 road trip.

Aaron Gordon had 20 points and 12 rebounds for Orlando, which has lost its last seven road games. Elfrid Payton added 17 points and Bismack Biyombo had 13 points and a season-high 17 boards.

DeRozan made a pair of free throws to tie it at 114 with 37 seconds left in regulation, and Toronto got the ball back when Lowry stripped Matthew Dellavedova. Lowry's 3-point attempt with the shot clock winding down missed the rim, giving the Bucks 3.2 seconds to try to win it. With DeRozan defending him, Malcolm Brogdon couldn't get a shot off before the buzzer sounded, sending it to overtime.

"We were looking at Khris and Giannis," Kidd said. "We had two options and Malcolm was the safety. We knew they were going to switch, we just didn't make the right read.

Trail Blazers 124, Bulls 120

In Chicago, if C.J. McCollum finds a shot he likes, he won't hesitate to take it.

McCollum proved it Monday night when he scored 25 of his 32 points after halftime, including the tiebreaking basket with 56.5 seconds remaining in overtime, and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Chicago Bulls.

"I just tried to make plays," McCollum said. "If I can get a good shot, take it. If not, make the right play. I think guys did a great job of making the game easier for me. If I can get 30 good shots, I'll take 30 more. If I can get 40 good shots ... I'll take 40."

Al-Farouq Aminu added a season-high 24 points and Evan Turner also had his season best with 22 for Portland, which was without leading scorer Damian Lillard for a fifth straight game.

Kris Dunn scored 22 points and Nikola Mirotic had 18 points off the bench for Chicago, which blew a late lead for a second straight game. The Bulls lost for only the fourth time in 14 games since Mirotic returned to the lineup.

Though he missed his first seven shots, McCollum was pivotal as Portland rallied from a six-point deficit in the final 2 1/2 minutes of the fourth quarter. McCollum scored the final four points in regulation to tie the score at 112 and answered after Lauri Markkanen, who finished with 19 points, made a jumper from the corner that tied it at 120 with 1:14 left in overtime.

McCollum then made his short floater and added a pair of late free throws.

"(McCollum) is a shooter, he's a scorer and you've got to have that mentality," Portland coach Terry Stotts said. "What I was pleased most about with

Gay missed two previous games this season with a sore right heel.

The 12-year veteran, who signed with the Spurs in the offseason, will be re-evaluated in two weeks following a rest and rehabilitation program.

The injury is unrelated to the torn left Achilles tendon he suffered Jan. 18 and underwent successful surgery on while with the Sacramento Kings.

The 6-foot-8 forward is averaging 22.8 minutes and 11.6 points for San Antonio.

Gay's injury occurred two nights after the Spurs had every player healthy and available for the first time this

Harden out at least 2 weeks with hamstring injury

HOUSTON (AP)—Rockets star James Harden will miss at least two weeks with a left hamstring strain.

The team announced Monday that the NBA's leading scorer has a grade 2 strain and will be re-evaluated in two weeks.

Harden was injured on a missed layup late in the fourth quarter of Houston's 148-142 double-overtime win against the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday night. He said after the game that he didn't think the injury was serious, but the guard was walking with a pronounced limp.

The Rockets have the second-best record in the Western Conference behind Golden State at 26-9, and Harden

leads the NBA with his scoring average of 32.3 points per game. He also is averaging 9.1 assists, ranking third in the league.

Harden, who has played every game this season, has been extremely durable during his career, missing just two games since the start of the 2014-15 season.

In San Antonio, Spurs forward Rudy Gay will miss at least two weeks after an MRI revealed retrocalcaneal bursitis in his right heel.

Gay exited in the final minute of the third quarter during San Antonio's 119-107 victory over Brooklyn on Thursday night. An MRI Friday morning showed the inflammation of the bursa sac that

lies over the heel.

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Gay's injury occurred two nights after the Spurs had every player healthy and available for the first time this

season. San Antonio (25-11) has played without Kawhi Leonard and/or Tony Parker for 31 games this season due to quadriceps injuries along with minor injuries to Danny Green and Kyle Anderson.

In Oklahoma City, Thunder forward Patrick Patterson has been fined \$10,000 for publicly complaining about the officiating during the 2017-18 season.

The NBA handed down the punishment Sunday.

It stems from a post Patterson made on Twitter, writing Saturday: "There needs to be some kind of consequence for their downright awfulness rather than pointless apologies from their bosses. (hash) dobetter."

Wade Davis, Rockies agree to 3-year, \$52M deal



D E N V E R
(AP)—The

Colorado Rockies added a significant piece to what's becoming a formidable and high-priced bullpen by agreeing to a three-year, \$52 million contract with All-Star reliever Wade Davis.

Woods still undecided with schedule in 2018

NEW YORK—Tiger

Woods said that he was "very encouraged" by his performance earlier this month at the Hero World Challenge but still does not know what his 2018 schedule will entail.

In a 1,731-word post on his website, Woods recapped his week in the Bahamas and looked ahead to 2018, saying that he is "continuing to progress and trying to get strong enough to where I can handle a workload again."

Making his first start since fusion surgery in the spring, Woods impressed observers with his power and speed during the Hero, where he tied for ninth after taking the lead through 27 holes. He said he took a week off after the event to "build up my body" but was surprised by his explosiveness off the tee, and that he's now about a full club longer than when he last played in February.

"I honestly wasn't sure what to expect being away from competitive golf for 10 months," he wrote, "and came away excited about my health and my game."

Woods gave no indication when he'd announce his upcoming schedule. He said that he'll appear at the Genesis Open in February—an event that benefits his foundation—"one way



or another."

"I would love to play a full schedule in 2018," he wrote. "What that entails, including back-to-back events, I don't know. I just have to continue to work on my body and game and see where I pan out."

"I wish I knew where I was going to play and when I was going to play—it's a lot easier to prep for that—but we really don't know. This is all uncharted territory."

On another note, he applauded the governing bodies' decision to no longer accept viewer call-ins relating to potential rules violations.

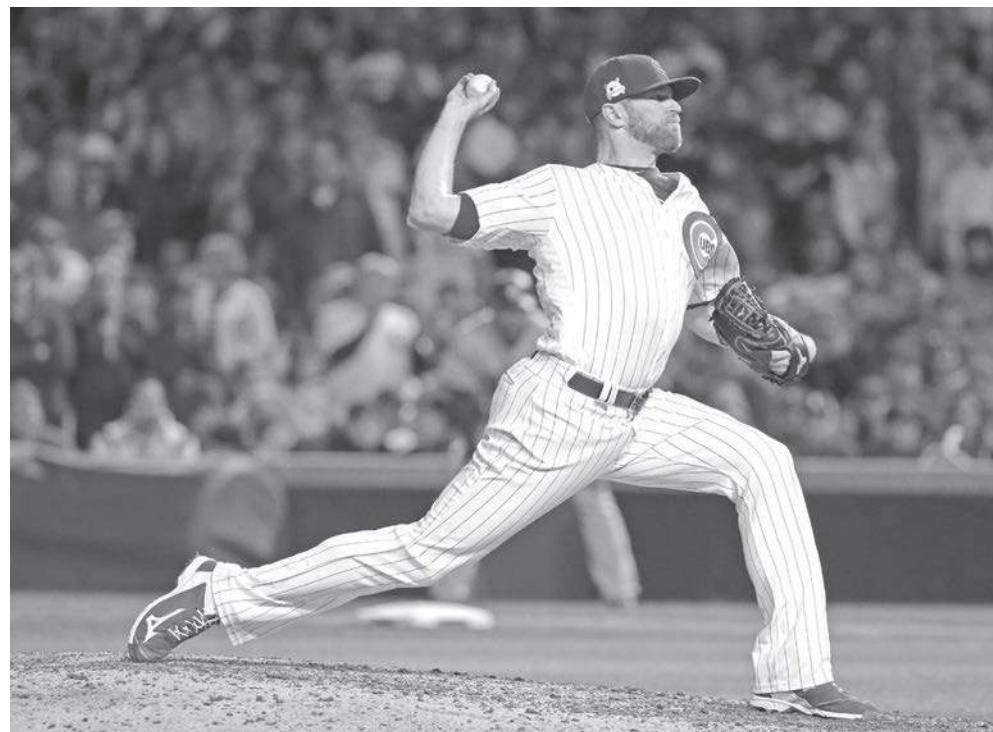
"For some time, I have felt the rule was unfair because not everyone is on TV for the same amount of time," he wrote. "Golf is different than most sports where you have numerous officials watching every play all the time. It's up to us as players to police each other and ourselves. Players inadvertently make mistakes, but what happened to Lexi Thompson at the ANA Inspiration and Dustin Johnson at the U.S. Open was ridiculous. Both handled it extremely well, but it's just not fair. Our game has an enormous amount of integrity and we should rely on that."

Matthew Milo combining for 1:34:08. TanHoldings narrowly defeated Agape B, which posted 1:34:18, while Agape D was at distance third after clocking in at 1:42:23.

In the solo division, Ronald Villafria was the champion after registering 1:43:30, while Max Simian and Edmond Bata came in at second and third after logging 1:50:24 and 1:54:19, respectively.

Thirty joined the team event, while six did the solo race. The Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services fielded eight teams, while Agape had four.

The Christmas Island Relay was the last event of Northern Marianas Athletics for the 2017 season and NMA would like to thank DFEMS, the Department of Public Safety, and all of the group's sponsors for making the race successful.



AP
In this Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2017, file photo, Chicago Cubs relief pitcher Wade Davis throws during the ninth inning of Game 4 of baseball's National League Championship Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers, in Chicago.

taken very seriously when he comes into the game."

Newly signed Rockies catcher Chris Iannetta certainly feels the Rockies just added a valuable component. He wrote on Twitter: "Championships are won with team chemistry, defense and PITCHING!!! We just got a step closer! Is it (hash) OpeningDay yet????"

The move reunites Davis with pitching coach Steve Foster, who came to Colorado from Kansas City. What's more, this is the second straight season that Foster's played a hand in bringing back a closer he's had ties with in Kansas City. Last season, the Rockies relied on Greg Holland as he finished with 41 saves after missing 2016 while recovering from Tommy John surgery.

Holland declined to exercise his \$15 million player option to stay in the Mile High City.

Bridich said the team had its eye on several closers—including Holland—but Davis became a priority. The deal with Davis was first reported by Yahoo! Sports.

have not been released. The team officially announced the deal Friday afternoon.

A 32-year-old right-hander, Davis will be in line to close out games for a Colorado team that returned to the playoffs last season for the first time since 2009. The Rockies' relievers played a big role in 2017 by going 24-19 with a 4.40 ERA. Their 549 strikeouts over 550 2/3 relief innings were the second-most in franchise history.

General manager Jeff Bridich is sticking to his blueprint of fortifying the bullpen. A few weeks ago, the Rockies

finalized \$27 million, three-year contracts with right-hander Bryan Shaw and lefty Jake McGee, who's been with Colorado the past two seasons. The team also is set to return righty Adam Ottavino and lefty Mike Dunn.

It has all the makings of a shut-down bullpen.

"We'll see," Bridich said. "There's a lot of time in between now and when that's determined. There's a foundation that's been set for a deep pen as long as guys stay healthy and pitch to their capabilities."

Davis has flourished since stepping into a full-time reliever's role in 2014. He leads all qualified major league relievers with a 1.45 ERA and has allowed a .169 opponent batting average. In 2015, Davis was a pivotal part of a bullpen that helped guide the Kansas City Royals to a World Series title.

Last season, Davis had a 2.30 ERA and 32 saves for the Chicago Cubs after being acquired in a trade from Kansas City.

"There's a slow heartbeat in pressure situations," Bridich said of Davis. "There's that inner belief in himself in those situations. Just a competitor. A very good competitor—a guy who I think is

3

From Page 28

ers in Australia and New Zealand," Sean told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview last week during a break in his training session at Kanoa Resort.

As for his older sister, Carol, the world No. 212 will try again to make it to the main draw of the Australian Open (Juniors) after falling short in her bid last month in China.

The 16-year-old Carol only made it to the quarterfinals of the Australian Open 2018

Asia-Pacific Wildcard Play-off Tournament in Zhuhai and despite missing a wild card entry to the first Junior Grand Slam event of the year under the ITF Juniors Circuit, she was thankful for the chance to play in the competition in China.

"The Australian Wild Card Play-Off was a good experience for me. I lost in the quarters against a junior player who only competed in the pro circuit and I'm actually lucky to play against her. Of course, it was difficult to win a wild

card to the main draw of the Aussie Open juniors, but I fought for it and tried my best so I'm happy with that. There were a lot of tough players out there but I kept my confidence high," said Carol, who returned to Saipan after the tournament in Australia and trained here for weeks.

She will be flying to Melbourne this Friday, together with her father Dong Min Lee, who will act as the Commonwealth player's coach and chaperon.

"I am proud to see two of

Jugos scored 17 points, including 12 straight markers off his shots from downtown in the opening minutes of the game. Guiab led Shirley's with his 19 markers, while Catungal chipped in 13.

With Jugos on target and Guiab also hitting baskets in streaks, Shirley's took a 39-18 halftime lead and never looked back to hand Lower Base its third loss in as many games.

Schmidt finished with 23 points, while Pablo added 19, as Kanoa delivered in the second half after falling behind by a deuce at the break.

In the second match, John Jugos fired up Shirley's offense with his early triples, while Junar Guiab and Angel Catungal provided support in the second half to end the team's two-game skid.

my children going off-island to compete in very challenging tournaments. I am sure they will do well because they've been training hard for the competitions," said Dong Min.

Before the qualifier for the Australian Open, which will take place from Jan. 17 to 18, Carol will first play in the AGL Loy Yang Traralgon Junior International that will start on Jan. 13. Competition in the main draw for the Australian Open will run from Jan. 20 to 27 at the Melbourne Park.

56-44

Second Game

Shirley's 72 — Guiab 19, Jugos 17, Catungal 13, Bordon 11, Meyran 5, Alonso 5.

Lower Base 54 — Fujihira 21, Kenty 14, Riungel 10, J. Benavente 5, Camu 2, Dowai 2.

Scoring by halves: 39-18, 72-54.

Third Game

Fiesta 70 — Pagaraao 20, Demafelix 8, Francisco 7, Maliwanag 7, Sedillo 6, Arreza 5, Quizon 5, Villamena 4, Ngirarois 4, Estdrelon 2.

POI 53 — Nakashima 28, Santos 8, Tenepere 7, Arago 4, Bait 2.

Scoring by halves: 37-26, 70-63.

AGAPE

From Page 28

said Agape's Kok H. Pang.

Peter Wang was the anchor of Agape A and together with his four teammates, they crossed the finish line more than a minute ahead of runner-up TRAC 1. Keith Longuski led TRAC 1 and joined forces with Charlie Sendin, David Brook, Heather Taylor, and Josh David Joson. The second placers clocked in at 1:28:21.

Rounding out the Top 3 in the open division was Rinty FC, which submitted 1:29:50. Rintaro Miyawaki, Joshua Abragan, Christopher Aninzo, Anthony Fruit, and Clayton Izuka made up Rinty FC.

Meanwhile, in the youth division, TanHoldings emerged as the top finisher with Kaith Lynn Chavez, Mark Esalan, Taka and Ichiro Borja, and Jan

FIESTA

From Page 28

Shirley's Coffee Shop broke into the win following a 72-54 triumph in the second match against Lower Base (0-3).

Fiesta was all business right at the start of the game and leaned on its much deeper roster to gain contribution from multiple players and build a 37-26 halftime lead. POI faces a double-digit deficit at the end of the first half, as only Nak Nakashima and Jesse Santos hit more than one field goal for the squad in the opening 20 minutes of play.

It was still a Nakashima show in the second half, while Fiesta continued its balance

scoring and also drew solid offense from Lerio Pagaraao to keep the big margin. Pagaraao had a team-high 20 points, while Nakashima led all scorers with his 28.

In the first game, Douglas Schmidt and Dindo Pablo teamed up in lifting Kanoa past *Saipan Tribune*.

Schmidt finished with 23 points, while Pablo added 19, as Kanoa delivered in the second half after falling behind by a deuce at the break.

In the second match, John Jugos fired up Shirley's offense with his early triples, while Junar Guiab and Angel Catungal provided support in the second half to end the team's two-game skid.

First Game

Kanoa Resort 56 — Schmidt 23, Pablo 19, Encarna 8, Lumauag 4, Tam 2.

Saipan Tribune 44 — D. Ong 27, Calayag 8, Lapuz 4, Galarion 4, Orbeta 1.

Scoring by halves: 33-31,

PSS/NMIFA Fall U11 Interscholastic Soccer League



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Koblerville Elementary School players and their coaches pose for a group photo after winning over William S. Reyes Elementary School, 1-0, in the girls finals of the 2017 PSS/NMIFA Fall U11 Interscholastic Soccer League held last month at the Hopwood Middle School Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School players and their coaches gather for a group photo after beating Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in the boys title match, 4-0.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School players and coaches wait for the presentation of the runner-up trophy.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Koblerville Elementary School' Brinelle Quitugua, left, and Megan Elayda, right, show their Golden Glove and Golden Boot awards, while their teammates pose with their championship trophy.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Northern Marianas Islands Football Association staff Jershwin Angeles thanks the students and their teachers/school officials and parents for the success of the league.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

William S. Reyes Elementary School players and coaches pose with their runner-up trophy.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mt. Carmel School's Vicente Reyes is all smiles after winning the Golden Glove award.



Students and their supporters wait for the announcement of the winners.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Alabama vs Georgia
for national
championship

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Saipan Tribune Sports

DeRozan sets
franchise-high 52,
Raptors beat Bucks

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28 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Agape A leads Island Relay finishers



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Agape Christian School A runners celebrate as they near the finish line of last Saturday's 36th Annual Christmas Island Relay at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

Fiesta beats POI, takes solo lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan won the battle of undefeated teams after easing past POI Aviation, 70-53, in the nightcap in the 2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

With the victory, Fiesta moved up to solo first place with its 3-0 record, while POI dropped to a 2-1 mark for second place, tying Kanoa Resort. The defending champion Kanoa gained its second win after downing *Saipan Tribune* (1-2) in the curtain-raiser, 56-44, while

See FIESTA on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Peter Magat, left, hounds POI Aviation's Ramsa Tenepere, while teammate Joseph Villamena, right, stays close on defense during their game in the 2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Agape Christian School continued its reign in the Annual Christmas Island Relay as Agape A ruled the 36th edition of the race held last Saturday.

Peter Wang, Jonathan Xiong, William Chen, Leo Li, and David Cai teamed up for Agape A and completed the 13.7-mile run from Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi in 1:26:30. The quintet broke the time (1:27:42)



of 2016 overall winners Jason Wang Shengen, Caleb Wang, Allan Zhao, Henry Xiong, and Hu En Ze of Agape 1.

"We challenged our runners to beat the winning of our team last year and they did it. They led from start to finish,"

See AGAPE on Page 26

3 jr. players to join Aussie tourneys

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Siblings Carol and Sean Lee and Conatsu Kaga will bring their acts to Australia as they compete in junior tournaments in the Land Down Under.

Carol will be joining the qualifying tournament for the Australian Open (Juniors) in Melbourne and the AGL Loy Yang Traralgon Junior International G1, while Sean and Kaga will be participating in the Margaret Court Cup in Albury and the Victorian Grass Court Championships in Wodonga. Kaga and Sean left Saipan for Melbourne last Monday and are scheduled to travel to Albury in New South Wales today in time for the team event of the Margaret Court Cup, which will begin tomorrow. The individual play will run from Jan. 5 to 9 with both Sean and Kaga entered in the U14 age group.

From NSW, the two CNMI players will head to Wodonga in Victoria for the Victorian Grass Court Championships, which will be held from

Jan. 10 to 13. Then on Jan. 14, Kaga and Sean will return to Melbourne to watch games in the Australian Open before heading home on Jan. 17.



"It's a great opportunity for me and I will do my best to get as many wins as I can in the tournament. I would love to play against the junior play-

See 3 on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, Carol, Sean, Anne, and Dong Min Lee pose for a photo during a break in their training session last week at Kanoa Resort.